

ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS

BASIS

Professions within the criminal justice field demand a high level of ethical behavior. The Social Work and Criminal Justice Program promotes the ideal of producing graduates who have a deep respect for cultural diversity and a mandate for promoting social justice for all individuals. Failure to meet academic professional standards may be grounds for actions up to and including dismissal from the Criminal Justice Major and the Social Work and Criminal Justice Program. Failure to meet the academic professional standards described herein may also affect future employment. Many professions within the criminal justice field require extensive background investigations that may include a review of university records based upon a signed release; interviews with friends, associates and employers; criminal records checks and a polygraph examination. Agencies may seek candidates who have proven themselves able to meet these requirements prior to making an offer of employment. Many employers expect a recommendation from faculty. Students may jeopardize positive feedback on a background investigation or academic record when they fail to meet academic professional standards.

In order to lay the groundwork for student success, the University of Washington Tacoma Social Work and Criminal Justice Program provides students with guidelines as to what constitutes meeting academic professional standards.

The following constitutes academic professional standards for criminal justice students. It provides guidance regarding expected behavior and describes the consequences of violating the rules as set forth in this code.

All criminal justice majors, when accepting an offer of admission to the program, acknowledge in writing they have read and agree to adhere to the Academic Professional Standards for Criminal Justice Students.

ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Knowledge Base for Work in Criminal Justice or Related Fields. The professional activities of criminal justice require students be grounded in relevant social and behavioral knowledge and research. This includes knowledge and skills in research, practice, and policy.

Trustworthiness and Ethical Conduct. Criminal justice professionals are entrusted by the public to engage in ethical practices. Criminal justice professionals are empowered to deprive individuals of their property, liberty, and, in some instances, their life. Criminal justice students are to conduct themselves in ways that demonstrate trustworthiness and high ethical standards.

Respect. Criminal justice professionals are public servants, and are therefore responsible for treating all individuals with dignity and respect. Criminal justice students are to demonstrate respectful interpersonal and communication skills.

Originally developed by T. Derby-McCurtain (2016); Updated by J. Cohen (2017)

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Social Justice and Diversity. The criminal justice major at the University of Washington Tacoma adopts a social justice orientation. This includes the reduction of systemic and societal barriers that impede individuals from achieving their full potential and the fostering of a learning and professional community that promotes critical self-reflection, discovery, and action. Criminal justice students are to conduct themselves in a manner that affirms the value of diversity and the practice of social justice.

POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The following is a summary of the kinds of violations of above stated academic professional standards that may result in a review and possible dismissal of a student from the Criminal Justice Major. This is not an exhaustive list, and other violations, not articulated herein, could result in review and possible dismissal:

Knowledge Base for Work in Criminal Justice or Related Fields.

- A student fails to meet or maintain academic standards as established by the University and the Social Work and Criminal Justice Program. Sanctions in this case follow the established process for violation of academic standards and goals.
- A student violates the University of Washington Student Conduct Code. To view the Code and for more information regarding the review, appeal and implementation of discipline see: <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/student-conduct/uw-student-conduct-code>.

Trustworthiness and Ethical Conduct.

- A student engages in academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, lying in or on university-sanctioned forums including, but not limited to, the classroom, university research projects, events, online forums, examinations and assignments.
 - When a person cheats, plagiarizes or lies, they make a conscious choice to do so. Engaging in any of these activities is a major ethical violation. Violations by students in these areas can result in an automatic referral for disciplinary review.
 - For a detailed definition of what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please read the definitions found at <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/node/38211>.
- A student tolerates academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism or lying within university-sanctioned forums by fellow criminal justice students.

Respect.

- A student fails to show respect both inside and outside the classroom and/or fails to cooperate with instructors, fellow students, invited speakers or other university personnel. Failing to show respect can include one or all of the following behaviors:
 - Derogatory language, disparaging remarks and profanity directed towards instructors, fellow students or speakers while in class

- Refusing to comply with classroom etiquette as detailed in the instructor's syllabus, and refusing to comply with requests by the instructor to follow those instructions
- Engaging in behavior that disrupts the learning of other students, and refusing to comply with requests by the instructor to cease the behavior

Social Justice and Diversity.

- A student engages in any campus related activity that demonstrates bias or prejudice towards any individual or group based upon their gender, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, socioeconomic status, age, sex, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability.
 - A substantiated allegation that a student engaged in bias or prejudice, bullying, or other such behaviors may result in removal from the Criminal Justice Major and the Social Work and Criminal Justice Program.
- A student tolerates, by not reporting or passively participating in, any campus related activity that demonstrates bias or prejudice towards any individual or group based upon their gender, race, creed, color, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, sex, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability.

CONSEQUENCES: Violations of these standards may result in a variety of disciplinary actions depending upon the severity and the ability of the instructor and/or the department to resolve the issues. The University encourages resolution at the lowest level. The first step is usually a discussion between the faculty member and the student. If the issue is not resolved, the Director of Social Work and Criminal Justice will be notified. Be aware that some issues, such as a proven incident of cheating or plagiarism, may also violate the UW Student Conduct Code in addition to violating these academic professional standards. Under certain circumstances, the Director or another faculty member will convene the Social Work and Criminal Justice Professional Standards Committee or refer the student to an appropriate university entity. You can learn more about the Professional Standards Committee at <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/social-work/resources-criminal-justice-students>

The student should be aware that although the process will generally be followed in the order described, no one phase in the process is required before another may be utilized. If resolution of a grievance does not occur at a particular level, the appropriate referrals can be identified and discussed. It is against University policy to penalize or retaliate against any party for participation in grievance resolution.