

BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS

JUSTIFICATION

Professions within the criminal justice field demand a high level of ethical behavior. The Social Work Department promotes the ideal of producing graduates who have a deep respect for cultural diversity and a mandate for promoting social justice for all individuals. Criminal justice students must be aware that breaches of this code of conduct could be grounds for sanctions, up to and including dismissal from the UWT Social Work Program and the Criminal Justice Major. Ethical breaches described herein could also endanger future employment. Many professions within the criminal justice field require extensive background investigations that could include a review of university records based upon a signed release; interviews with friends, associates and employers; criminal records checks and a polygraph examination. Many employers expect a recommendation from faculty. Students jeopardize successful completion of a background investigation when they fail to maintain a high degree of honesty and trustworthiness. Those who serve in the criminal justice field must maintain the public trust; this requires strength of character and demands a high moral standard. Therefore, agencies seek candidates who have proven themselves able to meet these requirements prior to making an offer of employment. Knowing this, the University of Washington Tacoma Social Work Program has made it a priority to provide students with guidelines as to what constitutes acceptable behavior in order to lay the groundwork for student success.

The following constitutes expectations for criminal justice students. It provides guidance regarding expected behavior and describes the consequences of violating the rules as set forth in this code. Please read the following carefully and abide by the rules articulated herein.

All criminal justice majors, when accepting an offer of admission to the program, provide a signature acknowledging they have read and agree to adhere to the Behavioral and Academic Expectations for Criminal Justice Students.

BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

The following is a summary of the kinds of academic performance and conduct 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 behaviors, not articulated herein, could result in review and possible dismissal:

1. A student fails to meet or maintain academic standards as established by the University and the Social Work Program. Sanctions in this case are automatic and may take place without a review or further procedure.
2. A student violates the University Of Washington Student Code Of Conduct. To view the Code and for more information regarding the review, appeal and implementation of discipline see: http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SI/conduct_about.cfm

3. A student engages in academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, lying within university-sanctioned forums including, but not limited to, the classroom, university research projects, events, online forums, examinations and assignments.
 - a. When a person cheats, plagiarizes or lies, they make a conscience 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.
 - b. For a detailed definition of what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please read the definitions found at <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/enrollment-services/academic-honesty>
4. A student tolerates academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism or lying within university-sanctioned forums by fellow criminal justice students.
5. The University discovers documented evidence of an unreported felony conviction occurring either during the course of study or prior to admission.
 - a. Students should be aware that a felony would not necessarily preclude students from obtaining a degree in criminal justice.
 - b. Students should also be aware that many agencies and employment opportunities within the criminal justice field are contingent upon an applicant having no felony convictions.
6. 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:
 - a. Derogatory language, disparaging remarks and profanity directed towards instructors, fellow students or speakers while in class
 - b. 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
 - c. Engaging in behavior that disrupts the learning of other students, and refusing to comply with requests by the instructor to cease the behavior
7. A student engages in any campus related activity that demonstrates bias or prejudice towards any individual or group based upon their 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.
 - a. A substantiated allegation that a student engaged in bias or prejudice, bullying, or other such behaviors, may result in removal from the Social Work Program and Criminal Justice Major.
8. 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 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 the resolution of disciplinary problems and/or grievances at the lowest level. The first step is usually a discussion between the faculty member and the student. If it cannot be resolved at that level, the student's faculty adviser, depending on the violation, may be asked to help resolve the problem. If the issue is not resolved, the Director of Social Work will be notified. Be aware that some issues, such as a proven incident of cheating, plagiarism, or lying will likely be brought immediately to the Director of Social Work. Under certain circumstances, the Director or another faculty member will convene the Conflict Resolution and Behavioral Review Committee or refer the student to an appropriate university entity. You can learn more about the Conflict Resolution and Behavioral Review Committee at the following link:

http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/SocialWork/Conflict_Resolution_and_Behavioral_Review_140902.pdf

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.