

The University of Tennessee College of Social Work BSSW Program

Social Work Field Placement Code of Conduct

Social Work Students are expected to adhere to the standards/ethics of the profession. (Those advanced by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Prior to your placement you are asked to review the entire NASW Code of Ethics. What follows are some of the major standards for practice in the field as delineated in the NASW Code of Ethics.

Please note: If at anytime during your field placement you find yourself in a situation in which you have questions/concerns about a potential ethical dilemma, please contact your field instructor or your field consultant.

Commitment to Clients (1.01)

Social worker's primary responsibility is to promote the well-being of clients.

Self-Determination (1.02)

Social workers respect and promote the right of clients to self-determination and assist clients in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals.

Competence (1.04)

Social Workers should provide services and represent themselves as competent only within the boundaries of their education. It is important to inform your clients that you are a student.

Conflicts of Interest (1.06)

- (a) Social workers should be alert to and avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgement.
- (b) Social workers should not take unfair advantage of any professional relationship.
- (c) Social workers should not engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client.

Privacy and Confidentiality (1.07)

Social workers should protect the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of professional service, except for compelling professional reasons.

Sexual Relationships (1.09)

Social workers should under no circumstances engage in sexual activities or sexual conduct with current or former clients, whether such conduct is consensual or forced.

Physical Contact (1.10)

Social workers should not engage in physical contact with clients when there is a possibility of psychological harm to the clients as a result of the contact (such as cradling or caressing clients).

Derogatory Language (1.12)

Social workers should not use derogatory language in their written or verbal communications to or about clients. Social workers should use accurate and respectful language in all communications to and about clients.

Dishonesty, Fraud, and Deception (4.04)

Social workers should not participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, or deception.

Statement of Understanding

I understand as a field student I am expected to adhere to the values, ethics, and standards of the profession. My signature indicates that I have read and received a copy of this code of conduct.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date