

**The University of Tennessee College of Social Work  
MSSW Program**

**Social Work Field Placement  
Code of Conduct**

Social Work Students are expected to adhere to the standards/ethics of the profession, 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 liaison.

**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).

**Impairment (4.05)**

Social work students whose personal problems, psychosocial distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties interfere with their abilities to meet classroom and field practice requirements are expected to take appropriate remedial action.

**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.

**Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues (2.01)**

Social Work students should treat colleagues with respect and should represent accurately and fairly the qualifications, views, and obligations of colleagues.

Social Work students should cooperate with social work colleagues and with colleagues of other professions when such cooperation serves the well-being of clients.

Social Work students should avoid engaging in sexual relationships with colleagues when there is a potential for conflict of interest.

Social Work students should respect confidential information shared by colleagues in the course of their professional relationship and transactions. (2.02)

**Dishonesty, Fraud, and Deception (4.04)**

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

<u>Statement of Understanding</u>	
<p>Being admitted into the MSSW program requires students to adhere to the professional values, ethics and standards identified in the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics. If faculty determine my professional development is less than satisfactory, the program has the responsibility to review my suitability for the social work profession.</p> <p>The student’s signature indicates that the student has read and received a copy of this Social Work Field Code of Conduct</p>	
_____ Print Name	_____ Date
_____ Signature	