

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Social Work
BSW Program
SOCIAL WORK CODE OF CONDUCT

The Social Work Code of Conduct is designed to promote the growth of ethically responsible students and future professionals by setting standards for academic integrity and overall ethical conduct. The purpose of this Code is to instill a sense of individual responsibility on the part of each student and to foster a departmental culture of honor and trust. By way of this Code, students are challenged to rise to academic excellence, with professional ethics as a central feature of academic expectations. Academic standards in the social work program include those that are scholastic and professional in nature; both in combination are seen as the primary indicators of readiness for professional practice.

In addition to this Code of Conduct, all students are expected to know and follow the ethical standards established by the educational institution and the National Association of Social Workers.

- ✓ East Tennessee State University's Student Disciplinary Rules, which includes policies on disciplinary offenses and academic misconduct such as plagiarism and cheating, are found in the [Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.etsu.edu) (<http://catalog.etsu.edu>) under Policies and Procedures.
- ✓ [The National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp) also will be reviewed and applied in your social work classes (<http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>).

Ethical Standards

The ethical standards promulgated in this Code coincide with the ethical principles established in the NASW Code of Ethics. **(Initial each standard on the line provided.)**

Service: I will engage in human service volunteer activities to the best of my ability and in a socially responsible manner prior to entry into the major, during my social work practice courses, and during my senior practicum, as outlined by the department—with full cognizance of the serious nature of working with vulnerable segments of society. _____

Social Justice: I will engage in activities to gain sensitivity to and knowledge about oppression and cultural/ethnic diversity and, further, become committed to promoting the achievement of individual and collective social and economic justice. _____

Dignity and Worth of People: In the spirit of a respectful culture of learning, I will treat my fellow students, my teachers, my field supervisors, and other departmental personnel in a caring, respectful, and courteous fashion, mindful of individual differences, as well as of cultural and ethnic diversity. I will resolve any conflicts that arise in a manner that fully reflects the behaviors expected of future social work professionals. Additionally, I will support the concept of client self-determination. _____

Importance of Human Relationships: I will engage faculty as partners in my growth and engage clients as partners in the helping process. In working with clients, I will avoid conflicts of interest that would interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment, which includes setting clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries. _____

Integrity: I understand that I am expected to demonstrate personal integrity in meeting the objectives of the social work program and in fulfilling all degree requirements. I will carry out my role as learner honestly, honorably, and responsibly. The academic products I prepare and submit to meet program requirements will be produced through my own efforts and will not involve the use of term paper mills or be the result of any other form of unauthorized aid—nor will I submit in whole or in part the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor. I will meet and maintain academic standards of the institution and the department, and I will refrain from academic dishonesty of any sort. _____

Competence: In order to become a culturally competent practitioner, I will conscientiously participate in learning activities that promote sensitivity to, knowledge about, and appreciation of cultural diversity. I will strive to develop an awareness of self as a person and as a future professional helper and will commit to ongoing learning throughout my career. _____

Additional Academic Standards

Repeating Social Work Courses: I understand that if I earn a grade of “C-” or lower in a required social work course, I am eligible to repeat the course one time only. _____

I understand that I am allowed to repeat only two required social work courses in which I received a grade of “C-” or below. In order to request an exception to these policies, I must write a letter to the Program Director requesting readmission to a social work course and include documentation to support unusual or extenuating circumstances that contributed to the academic problems and a readiness to meet expected standards of performance. _____

Finally, I understand that if I earn a “C-” or below in the senior field placement I may not repeat the course and therefore cannot graduate with a social work degree. _____

Grade-Point Average: I understand that I must maintain a 2.25 GPA overall and a 2.5 GPA in social work courses to remain in the program. _____

Orientation: I will attend the BSW Program Orientation, which is **required** for admission to the program, where I will receive a copy of the *Handbook for Social Work Majors* and the program’s Academic Performance Standards will be further explained. _____

Advisement Information

In order for the ETSU social work program to maintain its integrity and accreditation, students must follow the curriculum design, adhering to prerequisites and co-requisites, as explicated in programmatic and university documents. Each student is assigned an advisor, and the department Executive Aide or any faculty member can help you connect with your advisor.

As a student, I agree to the following:

I will see my advisor before registering for any coursework and understand that any shortcuts to this established procedure involves a serious risk of not completing requirements in a timely manner. _____

I understand if I do not enroll in the courses I have been advised to take during advisement sessions, the department assumes no responsibility for making later course sequencing exceptions in order to keep me on target in meeting my desired graduation timeline. _____

I understand that if I enroll in courses without having the required pre- or co-requisites, I will be departmentally dropped from those courses, although the department will attempt to contact me and inform me of this action in advance. _____

I understand that seeking advisement is my responsibility and that I must set up an appointment with my advisor **prior to** course registration every semester. _____

I understand that I carry final responsibility for ensuring that I understand and have completed the requirements for graduation; it is not the responsibility of my advisor. _____

My signature below indicates that I have read this document carefully and fully understand its contents.

Student Signature

Print Name

Date