

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR HDFS GRADUATE STUDENTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY¹

Human service professionals, whether they are students, faculty, or clinicians, promote and encourage the unique values and characteristics of human service. In so doing, students and educators uphold the integrity and ethics of the profession, partake in constructive criticism of the profession, promote client and community well-being, and enhance their own professional growth. Although ethical codes are not legal documents, they may be used to assist in the resolution of issues related to ethical human service behavior.

Graduate students in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program are expected to be honest and professional in their conduct. Marriage and Family Therapy graduate students are in direct contact with and present information about individuals, couples, and families through practica, assignments, and clinical work. Therefore, each student is expected to:

1. Respect the integrity and welfare of children, adolescents, adults, and families at all times. Each person should be treated with respect, acceptance, and dignity.
2. Protect each child's, adolescents, adults, and/or family's right to privacy and confidentiality except when such confidentiality would cause harm to that individual or others. The student will adhere to all state laws regarding confidentiality and mandated reporting requirements relative to abuse and neglect, as well as any specific Marriage and Family Therapy Center and agency policies as appropriate.
3. Seek appropriate consultation and supervision to assist in decision-making when there is a legal, ethical, or other type of dilemma.
4. Avoid dual relationships and other situations that might impair judgment or increase the risk of exploitation when working with children, adolescents, adults, and families because of the influential position the student might have with them. These situations include, but are not limited to, personal, social, or business relationships.
5. Avoid illegal behavior and act with integrity, honesty, genuineness, and objectivity at all times.
6. Complete all class work, assignments and exams honestly. Academic Honesty, under Academic Policies in the Student Rights, Rules and Responsibilities.
7. Strive to personify characteristics typically associated with the Marriage and Family Therapy profession and strive for self-awareness and personal growth.

8. Refrain from inappropriate use of technology (i.e., use of technology for personal or non-business reasons).

Penalties for violating ethical standards may be severe, including a warning, probation, reduction of grade, and/or assignment of a failing grade. Removal from the program may be considered for behaviors considered unethical or unprofessional.

Students who appear to pose a danger to themselves or others, or who create an unsafe environment, may be removed from the MFT program at the department's discretion.

The department and its faculty may withhold professional recommendations for students who have violated the department's conduct policies.

I, _____ (print name), accept and endorse the above standards of ethical conduct. I understand and agree to the penalties for violation of the ethical standards, and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the principles of behavior outlined by these standards when involved directly with faculty, staff, other students, children, adolescents, adults, and/or families.

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

¹Adapted from the Ethical Standards of Human Service Professionals (2000), *Human Service Education*, 20(1), 61-68. National Organization for Human Service Education Council for Standards in Human Service Education.

Note: A signed copy of this statement must be filed with the Graduate Coordinator each year prior to the commencement of graduate study.

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