

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR HDFS DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE CORE AREAS¹

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 Human Development and Family Studies Core Programs are expected to be honest and professional in their conduct. Students in some courses are in direct contact with individuals and families through practica, assignments, and/or 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 agency policies as appropriate.
3. Seek appropriate consultation and supervision to assist in decision-making when there is a legal, ethical, or other 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/or families because of the influential position the student might have with them. These situations include, but are not limited to, close personal, social, or business relationships.
5. Avoid illegal behavior and act with integrity, honesty, genuineness, and objectivity.
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 profession (e.g., accountability, respect for others, genuineness, empathy, pragmatism), 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.

The program reserves the right to refrain from providing professional recommendation or recommendation for licensure for any student who violates academic, professional, or ethical standards.

I, _____ (print name), accept and endorse the above standards of ethical conduct and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the principles of behavior outlined by these standards when involved directly with 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.