

Ethical Standards for Department of Human Development and Family Studies Students in Internships or Practica¹

Human service professionals and those who educate them, regardless of whether they are students, faculty, or practitioners, promote and encourage the unique values and characteristics of human service. In so doing, interns 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 adjudication of issues related to ethical human service behavior.

1. The intern respects the integrity and welfare of the client at all times. Each client is treated with respect, acceptance, and dignity.
2. The intern protects the client's right to privacy and confidentiality except when such confidentiality would cause harm to the client or others. The intern will adhere to all state laws regarding confidentiality as well as agency policy.
3. The intern seeks appropriate consultation and supervision to assist in decision-making when there is a legal, ethical, or other dilemma.
4. The intern will adhere to all university policies and all state laws (including all mandated reporting relative to abuse and neglect) during their interactions with clients and others.
5. The intern acts with integrity, honesty, genuineness, and objectivity.
6. The intern is aware of the influential position he or she has with clients and makes decisions to strengthen that trust and avoids situations that might impair his or her judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. These situations include, but are not limited to, close personal or business relationships.
7. The intern adheres to the commitment made to his or her employer and to his or her faculty supervisor.
8. The intern strives to personify characteristics typically associated with the profession (e.g., accountability, respect for others, genuineness, empathy, pragmatism), and strives for self-awareness and personal growth.

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 during my internship/practicum.

Student's Signature

Date

Faculty Sponsor's Signature

Date

Site Supervisor'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.