

**Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences  
Case Western Reserve University**

**PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

ALL STUDENTS ENTERING THE MANDEL SCHOOL WILL BE EXPECTED TO SIGN THE ATTACHED STATEMENT OUTLINING THE PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT. PLEASE READ THIS AHEAD OF TIME AND COME PREPARED WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

# Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences Case Western Reserve University

## PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The following framework guides the policy on professional conduct. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of professional conduct, personal integrity or emotional stability requisite for professional practice, inappropriate or disruptive behavior toward colleagues, faculty, or staff (at school or field placement) will be the basis for nonacademic termination policies (CSWE, Commission on Accreditation, Supplement to the Handbook of Accreditation Standards and Procedures).

### Ethical Obligations

Students are ethically and professionally bound to:

- adhere to the NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Code of Ethics and Code of Practice and Professional Conduct for Social Work Licensure in Ohio;
- appreciate the value of diversity by demonstrating effective and nonjudgmental relationships and to work with others who are different than oneself; and
- adhere to issues of confidentiality as they relate to human services, classroom activities, and field placement.

Students are required to meet all of the following requirements to maintain good standing at MSASS.

#### Professional Commitment

- Exhibits a strong commitment to the goals of social work and to the ethical standards of the profession, as specified in the NASW Code of Ethics. Behavior judged to be in violation of the current NASW Code of Ethics, as well as the Ohio Licensing Code, may result in a consultative review and/or administrative action by the Committee on Students.
- Demonstrates commitment to the essential values of social work, which includes respect for the dignity and worth of every individual and his/her right to a just share of society's resources (social justice).

#### Professional Behavior

- Exhibits behaviors that are in compliance with program policies, institutional policies, professional ethics standards, and societal laws in classroom, field, and community.
- Appearance and personal demeanor reflect a professional manner.
- Uses sound judgment in decision making.
- Shows potential for responsible and accountable behavior by knowing and practicing within the scope of social work, respecting others, being punctual and dependable, prioritizing responsibilities, attending class regularly, observing deadlines, completing assignments on time, keeping appointments or making appropriate arrangements, and accepting supervision and criticisms in a positive manner.

- Works and communicates effectively with others, regardless of level of authority.
- Advocates for him/herself in an appropriate and responsible manner and uses proper channels for conflict resolution.
- Shows a willingness to receive and accept classroom feedback and field supervision in a positive manner and uses such feedback to enhance professional development.
- Exhibits appropriate professional and respectful interpersonal behavior towards colleagues, faculty, and staff in class and field.

## Personal Behavior

### Stress Management

- Demonstrates ability to deal with current life stress through the use of appropriate coping mechanisms when stress interferes with scholastic and professional performance.
- Handles stress effectively by using appropriate self-care and developing supportive relationships with colleagues, peers, and others when stress impacts scholastic and professional performance.

### Emotional Problems

- Seeks and effectively uses help for problems that interfere with scholastic and professional performance.
- Engages in counseling or seeks out support and help if personal problems, psychosocial distress, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties result in any of the following:
  - compromising scholastic and other performance;
  - interfering with professional judgment and behavior;
  - jeopardizing the best interests of those to whom the social work student has a professional responsibility (as outlined in the Code of Ethics by the National Association of Social Workers and the Ohio State Board of Social Workers Examiners for Social Work Licensure).

## Harassment

There will be zero tolerance for any form of harassment, which includes the following:

- Conduct that intimidates, threatens, or endangers the health or safety of any person.
- Behavior that intentionally or negligently causes physical, financial, or emotional harm to any person.
- Behavior that is construed as a nuisance, including prank phone calls or abusing or harassing another user through electronic means.

I have read the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences' Professional Code of Conduct and agree that as a student of the Mandel School, I will abide by all of its provisions.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_