

**WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Social Work**

**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; in combination, both 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.

- Westfield State University’s BSW Program Handbook, which includes policies on disciplinary offenses and academic misconduct such as plagiarism and cheating, can be found at <http://www.wsc.ma.edu/uploads/socialwork/handbook.pdf>
- The National Association of Social Workers’ *Code of Ethics*, which will be reviewed and applied in your social work classes, can be found at <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 during my social work 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 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 educational 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 lower than a “C”, I must repeat the course. \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Advisement Information**

In order for the WSU social work program to maintain its integrity and accreditation, students must follow the program’s curriculum design, adhering to prerequisites and co-requisites, as explicated in programmatic and university documents. Each student is assigned an advisor; the department’s Secretary 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 attempt to enroll in courses without having the required pre- or co-requisites, I will not be allowed. The department will attempt to work with me to manage this situation \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that seeking advisement is my responsibility and that I must set up an appointment for course registration with my advisor. \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I have access to the *BSW Program Student Manual* on the WSU social work program website and I will review it. \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I have access to the *BSW Field Manual* on the WSU social work program website and I will review it. \_\_\_\_\_

I have received a copy of the Program's Academic Performance Standards. \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that I was in attendance at the BSW Orientation \_\_\_\_\_

My signature below indicates that I have read the Code of Conduct carefully and fully understand its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY  
BSW PROGRAM  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

*Include this signature page with your BSW Program Application*

My signature below indicates that I have read the Code of Conduct carefully and fully understand its contents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date