MSW STUDENT MANUAL
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SILVER SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Silver School of Social Work at New York University is to educate professionals in a global perspective for social work practice with individuals, families, groups, and communities and to provide leadership in the development of knowledge relevant to social work practice in a complex urban environment.

The School seeks to fulfill its mission by building and transmitting knowledge that will help to alleviate human suffering, enhance the vitality and caring capacity of communities, and promote the ideals of a humane and just world.

The School is committed to the core social work values of: belief in the dignity and worth of all individuals; the centrality and power of caring human relationships; a commitment to social and economic justice that includes freedom from all forms of oppression and access to social goods; and a dedication to practicing with integrity and the highest level of competence. The School offers programs at the undergraduate, master’s, and doctorate level.

The Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BS) provides students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical standards necessary for beginning social work practice. The BS program is grounded in the liberal arts and emphasizes human rights, social justice and advocacy, which establishes the foundation graduates need to effectively address the social problems of today’s world.

The Master in Social Work (MSW) educates professionals for the pursuit of social justice with an emphasis on direct social work practice that aims to improve biopsychosocial functioning through helping relationships. Dedicated to excellence in integrating teaching and learning in both classroom and community contexts, the MSW Program prepares its graduates to apply critical thinking, research-based knowledge and practice wisdom to restore, maintain, and enhance the functioning and well-being of individuals, families and communities, and promote effective and equitable social policies and social services.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Social Work (PhD) prepares its graduates to be the intellectual leaders of the social work profession. Students in the PhD program learn to engage in practice-based research and the development of theories relevant to practice, to disseminate new knowledge through professional writing and speaking, and to educate future generations of social workers.

The Doctor of Social Welfare Program in Clinical Social Work (DSW) trains advanced clinical social work practitioner-scholars to assume leadership positions in clinical social work education and agency-based behavioral health practice settings. Through the promotion of practice-relevant scholarship, the program prepares graduates to develop new clinical social work knowledge and skills to advance social work practice and education benefiting client populations-at-risk.

The School is committed to the education of its students in collaboration with community partners and the advancement of the social work profession through the scholarly contributions of its faculty.
SECTION III: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Essential Abilities and Attributes for Social Work Students

The complex process of becoming a competent professional social worker begins upon entrance into the NYU Silver School of Social Work MSW program. In order to maintain matriculation in the MSW program, and to meet their obligations as professionals, students are expected to meet all of the standards for social work education and practice listed below. These standards will be part of evaluations of students made by faculty during the course of study. An inability to meet these standards will have consequences for successful continuation in, and completion of, the program.

- **Attendance and Punctuality:** Social work students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and fulfill all required field placement hours. They are expected to complete assignments on time, and to be punctual and dependable.

- **Professional Behavior:** Social work students are expected to behave in a professional manner in all classes, in their field placements, and in all interactions with faculty, staff, and other students. They are expected to communicate effectively and respectfully with other students, faculty, staff, clients and other professionals both orally and in writing.

- **Academic Integrity:** Social work students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity and adhere to NYU and Silver School of Social Work standards of academic conduct.

- **Professional Commitment:** Social work students must possess a commitment to the core values and ethical standards of professional social work. They are expected to be knowledgeable about and adhere to the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics.

- **Self-awareness:** Social work students must be open to examining how their values, attitudes, and beliefs affect their thinking, behavior and interpersonal interactions. Students must be willing to examine and change their attitudes and behavior when they interfere with their work with clients and with other professionals.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Social work students must possess a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and they are expected to demonstrate this commitment in their field placements, classes, and in the larger School community.

- **Judgment:** Social work students are expected to apply sound professional and personal judgment and effectively attend to professional roles and boundaries.

- **Self-care:** Social work students are expected to manage the demands of the MSW program in a manner that enables them to remain consistently engaged, attentive to duties, and professional in conduct and attitude. They must be able to recognize the signs of stress, develop appropriate means of self-care, and seek supportive resources if necessary.
Ethical Use of Social Media in Practice

In order to ensure the most appropriate and effective use of social media and to avoid unique challenges that social media usage may create, students should use ethical principles as outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics as a guide to practice. Specific guidelines on social media content and presence may differ at different agencies and institutions. Students are responsible for gaining clarity on these guidelines before sharing information and experiences, whether for professional, educational, or personal purposes, on social media outlets. In general, students should keep in mind the following:

- Social work students should avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgment, and should avoid dual or multiple relationships with clients.
- Student should respect a client’s right to privacy, and should not solicit private information unless it is immediately relevant.
- Students should not discuss confidential information in any setting unless privacy can be ensured.
- Students should not permit their private conduct to interfere with their professional work, and should make clear distinctions between statements and actions made as a private individual and as a social work professional.

Professional Misconduct and Discipline

Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

A professional social work degree should represent genuine learning and readiness to undertake responsibilities that include adhering to the social work Code of Ethics. The degree's integrity must be carefully safeguarded. Faculty is responsible for helping students learn to understand and value other people's ideas, to use resources and conscientiously acknowledge them, and to develop and clarify their own thinking. In addition, all the usual academic norms addressing honesty in academic performance, such as following all of the rules involving examinations of any kind, must be scrupulously followed. Failure to do so can result in dismissal from the program.

All students are expected to pursue the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Students must adhere to the norms of a serious professional community. A student's responsibilities include the following:

- A duty to respect the efforts of others by submitting his or her own academic work and case recordings.
- A duty to acknowledge properly the efforts of others.
- A duty to safeguard and respect the property and rights of others.

The following is a link to the University Policy on Academic Integrity for Students: www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html.
Definition of Plagiarism

In order to make the rules with regard to what does and does not constitute a breach of academic ethics as clear as possible, the faculty has formally clarified the definition of plagiarism for NYU School of Social Work as follows:

- Plagiarism constitutes both academic misconduct and a breach of professional trust.
- Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work, either academic or field related, as though it were your own.
- More specifically, plagiarism is to present as your own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer; a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized, and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing, without attribution.
- Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of sources be accurate and complete.
- Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

Ways to Avoid Plagiarism

- Familiarize yourself with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.
- When taking notes from any written material (published or not) summarize, do not paraphrase. If you are not sure about this, check with your instructor. Even summaries should be acknowledged in your presentation since the idea and often the manner in which the material is organized is the work of someone else.
- When someone else has said something so well that you want to include it in your work, be sure to copy it exactly, follow APA quotation guidelines and cite the copied portion(s) appropriately.
- Students are fully responsible for any work they submit. If the work is typed by a typist, students must read the finished work to be sure that no references or quotation marks have been omitted.
- If you allow another student(s) to copy your work (including computer programs and research data) and submit it as their own, or if you submit a copy of someone else's work and claim it as your own, you have plagiarized.
- Understand that your reader will want to know the sources you used in your research/writing and may be concerned about phrasing that is not like your usual writing style. Online material must be clearly referenced as well.
- It is recommended that you cite electronic sources in the same manner you would non-electronic sources. Additionally, you must include all the electronic retrieval information needed for others to locate the sources you cited (i.e. web URLs or DOIs).

Anti-Bias Policy

Any student that has experienced bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior within the classroom, field placement, or community is advised to report the incident through the New York University Bias Response Line, which is designed to help ensure that our University community is equitable and inclusive. In order to report an incident, students can call (212) 998-2277, email bias.response@nyu.edu, or complete a Bias Response Online Form.
Advisory Committee on Academic Integrity

Purpose
The purpose of the Advisory Committee on Academic Integrity (CAI) is to review and provide a disposition of problems or issues related to academic integrity.

All faculty, students, and other parties may refer matters concerning student or faculty academic integrity. All referring parties may consult or file a formal complaint with the Committee. If filing a formal complaint against a student or faculty member the CAI will inform the relevant student, academic advisor, or faculty member.

All matters referred to the CAI will be considered confidential.

Procedures
1. Consultation with the Committee
   a. Parties who wish to consult with the Committee may do so by sending a memo to the chairperson of the CAI setting forth the basis for the request.
   b. The CAI will review the memo requesting consultation within two weeks.
   c. The CAI will transmit an opinion in writing to the party requesting consultation and any other relevant party within two weeks of their review.

2. Filing a Formal Complaint Concerning a Student
   a. A party who wishes to lodge a formal complaint may do so by sending a memo and documentation to the chairperson of the CAI. Formal complaints must be accompanied by documentation in support of the allegation concerning the violation of academic integrity. A student against whom a complaint is filed may submit a written response to the allegation.
   b. The CAI will review the allegation and supporting documents within thirty days.
   c. The CAI will forward a written recommendation to the Dean for action within two weeks of their completed review.
   d. A copy of the recommendation will be sent to the party who filed the complaint.
   e. The Dean will inform the CAI of the decision.
   f. A written summary will be given to the student and be placed in the student’s permanent file.

3. Filing a Formal Complaint Concerning Faculty
   a. A formal complaint may be lodged by sending a memo and documentation to the chairperson of the CAI. Formal complaints must be accompanied by documentation in support of the allegation concerning the violation of academic integrity. A faculty member against whom a complaint is filed may submit a written response to the allegation.
   b. The CAI will review the allegation and supporting documents within thirty days.
   c. The CAI will forward a written recommendation to the Dean for action within two weeks of their completed review.
   d. A copy of the recommendation will be sent to the individual who filed the complaint.
   e. The Dean will inform the CAI of the decision.
   f. A written summary will be given to the faculty member and be placed in the faculty member’s permanent file.
4. **Appeal Process**
   a. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of the Dean, the student can submit a written appeal to the NYU Office of Student Affairs in order to invoke a Student Grievance Procedure.
   b. If a faculty member wishes to appeal the decision of the Dean, the faculty member can request that a five member ad hoc committee be appointed by the Office of the Vice Provost (NYU Faculty Handbook).

**Student Standing Committee (SSC)**

The Student Standing Committee reviews students enrolled in the professional degree programs (BS and MSW), who have been referred for reports of unethical or unprofessional behavior in the classroom, field setting and school community at large. Upon review if the committee determines that a student’s behavior meets the standards of unprofessional or unethical behavior the committee recommends appropriate action to the Dean.

Unprofessional/unethical behavior includes but is not limited to the following: Commission or omission of any act which does not conform to generally accepted standards of responsible professional behavior, such as harassing, coercing or intimidating any member of the school community during activities directly related to classroom instruction, Field placement, or within the administrative offices of the school, on the basis of a protected category (e.g. gender, gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, national origin or sexual orientation); improper disclosure through email, internet websites or postings of confidential information, including but not limited to, students, clients or Field placements; misuse, alteration or fabrication of documents, or records related to the student’s Field placement; inappropriate relationships and/or boundary violations with clients, staff, or other students; failure to disclose a potential conflict or threat (e.g. NASW Code of Ethics).

Academic Disruption/Interference behaviors that interfere with an academic activity (e.g. class, advising session, lecture, workshop) such as persistently talking without being recognized; creating noise that obstructs the learning process; repeatedly interrupting others; maliciously or inappropriately mocking or ridiculing another’s work or comments; speaking in an abusive or derogatory manner; engaging in acts of physical aggression; or deliberately engaging in other behaviors that have the effect of compromising the learning process. (e.g. University Student Conduct Policies)

The committee will exclude matters that should go to the Committee on Academic Integrity. If the decision regarding the appropriate committee (SSC or CAI) is not clear, the chairs of the CAI and SSC will consult in order to determine which committee will review the matter.

All members of the School community (faculty, field instructor, students and staff) can make a referral to the SSC.

The SSC Committee shall consist of five (5) elected faculty members (two tenured, one tenure track, two clinical full-time faculty members,) and two (2) student members. The Office of Student Affairs will coordinate selection of the student. Members of the Committee shall serve staggered 2-year terms.
Procedures of the Student Standing Committee (SSC)

Section 1. Purpose
The Student Standing Committee reviews students enrolled in BS and MSW programs who have been referred for reports of unethical or unprofessional behavior in the classroom, field setting and school community at large. Upon review if the committee determines that a student’s behavior meets the standards of unprofessional or unethical behavior the committee recommends appropriate action to the Associate Dean for Academic Affair.

Section 2. Rights and responsibilities of each party
1. The Chair will inform the student that he or she has the right to exclude either or both student members from the hearing and that the exercise of that right must be made in writing to the Chair.
2. Any member of the SSC who has a conflict of interest or the appearance of such a conflict should excuse himself or herself from a specific case.
3. The student will be given a copy of the written complaint in advance of the hearing.
4. The student has the right to submit a written response to the written complaint in advance of the meeting.

Section 3. Procedures
1. All members of the School community (faculty, field instructors, students, and staff) can make a referral to the SSC. A party who wishes to lodge a complaint may do so by sending a memo and documentation to the chairperson of the SSC. Referrals must include any stated School/University policy or professional conduct violations and any attempts that have been made to resolve the issue.
2. The SSC Chair will inform the student, the complainant, and the other directly relevant parties regarding the referral, information regarding the SSC procedures, and the rights and responsibilities of all parties. In addition, the Chair will encourage the student to seek support from the Student Affairs Office.
3. The Chair will convene the hearing as soon as it can be arranged, with every effort being made to convene it within ten (10) working days. The SSC will consist of five (5) elected faculty members (two tenured, one tenure track, and two clinical full-time faculty members) plus two student members (one graduate and one undergraduate student). The five elected faculty members will elect a Chair. The Office of Student Affairs will coordinate with a relevant group to select the two student members. The members of the SSC shall serve staggered 2-year terms. In addition to the SSC committee members, parties who may participate in the hearing include the faculty advisor, the field instructor if the alleged violation occurred in a field setting, and/or the course instructor if the alleged violation occurred in a classroom or course. The Chair may invite additional relevant participants as necessary.
4. The student shall be advised that she or he may invite a person to attend the hearing in an advisory or support capacity. The student shall not be permitted to bring an attorney or law student. The student’s invited supporter is not allowed to question, cross-examine, or voluntarily contribute directly in the SSC hearing. Participation as an advisor/supporter is voluntary and any faculty, student, or staff member can decline the student’s invitation to attend the meeting. The SSC Chair must be notified in advance if such a person will be present.
5. Prior to the hearing, the SSC will review all material submitted. At the hearing, the SSC will hear oral presentations from the participating parties, deliberate in private, and determine whether a student’s behavior meets the standards of unprofessional or unethical behavior.

6. If the SSC determines that a student’s behavior meets the standards of unprofessional or unethical behavior, according to University and professional social work standards, the committee will convey their conclusion about the allegation and recommend appropriate action to the Dean. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to: placement on probationary status, a change in field placement, a leave of absence or dismissal from the program.

7. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs makes the final decision regarding the alleged violation.

8. Notification: Within five (5) working days, a written summary of the hearing and recommendations will be prepared and sent to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. A copy of the Associate Dean’s decision will be sent to the SSC, the student, the complainant and others who meet the “need to know” policy. A copy of the written summary and decision will also be included in the student’s permanent file.

Section 4. Submission of Materials in Preparation for the Hearing

1. Materials pertaining to a student’s performance while enrolled at the School shall be assembled and made available to the SSC.

2. Written material for the hearing will be prepared and submitted by the student, the complainant, and when appropriate, by the field instructor, classroom instructor, or other relevant parties.

3. All materials, except the student’s statement, must be submitted to the SSC at least five (5) working days before the hearing. Copies of written materials submitted to the SSC must be given to the student at least four (4) working days before the hearing. Student response statements must be submitted to the Chair at least two (2) working days before the hearing.

4. In order to protect confidentiality, all materials used by the SSC shall be returned to the Chair by all participants, including the student, with the exception that the student may retain his/her own notes. The Dean’s Office will retain one (1) set of all material in a confidential file.

University Policies

Many University-wide policies, including those summarized or referenced elsewhere in this manual, apply to the Silver School of Social Work and its students. The following is a non-exhaustive list of important University-wide policies; NYU maintains a comprehensive, searchable database of all University policies. Further, because policies undergo periodic revision, students and faculty should consult the most current version of these policies, as found on the University’s and Social Work’s web pages, to verify the precise conduct prohibited and governing language.

Statement and Guidelines on Bullying, Threatening and other forms of Disruptive Behavior

Academic communities exist to facilitate the process of acquiring and exchanging knowledge and understanding, to enhance the personal and intellectual development of its members, and to
advance the interests of society. Essential to this mission is that all members of the University
Community are safe and free to engage in a civil process of teaching and learning through their
experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, no student should engage in any
form of behavior that interferes with the academic or educational process, compromises the
personal safety or well-being of another, or disrupts the administration of University programs or
services. Although any action that is interpreted as being disrespectful, distracting, or even
disorderly can be disturbing to others, it may not constitute a form of Disruptive Behavior that is
actionable under this policy.

Examples of disruptive behavior can be found within the statement guidelines. Students can
report bullying, threatening and other forms of disruptive behavior to the Associate Dean for
Student Affairs at courtney.omealley@nyu.edu or 212-998-9189

New York University Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
To learn more about this policy, including definitions of prohibited harassment, see:
https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/anti-
harassment-policy-and-complaint-procedures.html

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
For details about FERPA, see the NYU FERPA webpage. You can also contact the Office of
Student Affairs, 1 Washington Square North (212-998-5926).

Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and Stalking Policy
For information about this policy, see NYU’s Sexual Misconduct, Relationship Violence, and
Stalking Policy webpage.

New York University Policies on Substance Abuse and Alcoholic Beverages
University policy on substance abuse and alcohol, and information about relevant University
programs and services, can be found at https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-

University Student Conduct Policies
All university student conduct policies and general rules of conduct for students can be found at
https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-
policy-on-student-conduct.html