

Student Guidelines for Professional Behavior in Placement

Students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior at all times while they are in placement. Some examples of this may include but are not limited to: maintaining an agreed-upon schedule, honoring all scheduled commitments by being present and prepared, contacting the placement site as soon as possible if they need to be absent, following a written agreement for making up missed time, adhering to the agency's dress code, etc. Specific expectations regarding student behavior in placement may look different in different agency contexts based on program-specific policies and protocols, but are in line with social work practice standards laid out the [NASW Code of Ethics](#).

More, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the *NASW Code of Ethics*, the values of the social work profession and the UVM Department of Social Work. It is expected that students demonstrate this conduct in all settings (formal and informal) related to their membership in the Department and the profession, which specifically includes a student's placement site, as well as the larger community. Likewise, it is expected that they will apply this standard in all interactions (formal and informal) with their Field Instructor; On-Site Supervisor (if applicable); placement agency colleagues (including other interns); Department faculty associated with the placement (such as the Faculty Field Liaison and Field Education Coordinator); community partners and stakeholders; those who receive services from the student's placement agency ("clients"); and any others with whom student come into contact through their involvement in Field Experience/Practicum.

This policy is established as an academic standard of professional social work education and as such is treated in the Field Education Program as a criterion for evaluating student performance. Rather than separating conduct from academic performance, students should understand that the Field Education Program, and the UVM Department of Social Work as a whole, takes its cues from the Council on Social Work Education's Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) as well as the larger social work profession.