SAHS Professional Expectations & Commitment

It is important to be aware that the program prepares students to assist people who may be experiencing a variety of challenges, difficulties and disabilities. This degree includes an academic component and field placement experiences. Recognizing that both academic and interpersonal skills are needed to be successful in this program and the human services profession, we are providing you with this document which provides details about the different qualities and standards of behavior that are expected of students in this program and in the Ethical Standards put forth by the Council for Standards in Human Services Education. (National Organization for Human Services). You will be required to meet the standards and expectations that are determined necessary to effectively work in human services. Throughout your participation in this program each of the following areas will remain a focus for learning, growth, and evaluation:

Academic Performance  
Acquisition of Knowledge  
Demonstration of Skills  
Acceptance of Others  
Emotional Stability  
Interpersonal Communication and Interaction  
Personal and Professional Integrity  
Responsibility  
Self-awareness and Maturity

Since the above qualities and behaviors have been identified as essential to effectively working with others, you will have many opportunities to demonstrate the behaviors, skills and knowledge with your peers, faculty members, in and out of the classroom, as well as with clients and co-workers at your field placement sites. Please be aware that should there be concerns about your performance or behavior, the appropriate people will communicate with you. If at any time the faculty are or agency staff are concerned that there could be harm to clients or if there are significant concerns about your clinical work, or behaviors in the classroom or field, you may be denied admission into or removed from the program. Students that are removed from the field will not be reassigned to another site that term and the student may need to withdraw from corresponding courses. Students that are removed from the field receive a failing grade for practicum. Please be aware that should you receive a failing grade or be removed from placement, you may be terminated from the program.

We recognize that some people who enter the field of Human Services are in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction and/or they may have their own mental health issues. These issues will not necessarily negatively impact a student’s participation in this program. However, it is important that there be continued recovery, emotional stability and management of one’s illness in order to provide effective services to clients and to protect clients from potential harm. In the case of relapse or emotional instability, students may initiate a temporary leave of absence to reestablish recovery/stability. A student’s inability to recognize the need for enhanced recovery or symptom management, may result in the student not being admitted to the program or removed from the SAHS program.

Student who have a history of past criminal activity and/or incarceration are not automatically excluded from working in the field of human services, however some restrictions will apply depending on the specifics of the crime and the agencies’ policies. Students must be off of probation/parole for a minimum of one year. A minimum of 3 years (post disposition) from non-violent offense(s) and 8 years (post disposition) from violent and/or sexually oriented offenses is required. Additionally, students with violent and/or sexually oriented offenses will be required to attend a meeting with full-time faculty to assess the student’s appropriateness for this program (regardless of the date of the offense(s). Students who receive a
criminal charge after admission to the program will be removed from the program. Students are required to report all new criminal charges to the SAHS faculty Admissions Coordinator. This program cannot guarantee field placement experiences for students with prior criminal convictions. Please be aware that there could be instances where Columbus State cannot secure an adequate field placement for students with a past criminal history, therefore, continuation in this program, graduation or post degree licensure cannot be guaranteed.

Students with restrictions (such as limited availability and location restrictions) regarding participation in field placement are also not guaranteed a field placement assignment.

**Essential Qualities of a Human Service Professional**

The following essential qualities have been identified and reflect the Ethical Standards put forth by the Council of Standards in Human Services (NOHS). The descriptions and lists provided serve as examples of these qualities, or lack thereof, and are not all-inclusive. Should significant concerns arise in any of the following areas, admission to the program may not be granted, or removal from the program could occur. Students are also expected to abide by the SAHS Code of Conduct which includes Academic and Classroom Conduct standards.

**ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

Students must earn a minimum of a “C” in all prerequisite and SAHS courses. Should a person earn less than a “C”, they must repeat the course and earn at least a “C” in order to proceed in the program sequence and/or graduate from the program. Incident of plagiarism result in a “0” for the assignment, are reported to the student conduct coordinator and may result in additional disciplinary action. A second incident of plagiarism will result in a student being removed from this program.

Students must have a 2.5 GPA for admission into this program and for graduation.

Students who do not earn a “C” or better in two or more SAHS courses may either not be admitted to or be removed from the program.

Earning a “D” or “E” is not acceptable.

**ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE** (NOHS, Statement 37)

The body of knowledge that has been identified as important and essential for persons working in the various areas of Human Services is included in the content of each of the technical courses. In addition, each field practice site also offers important information that is essential for working effectively in the agency. A student must be able to demonstrate the ability to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to the field practice setting.

The inability to translate knowledge to classroom assignments, exams and field placement evaluations will earn the student a failing grade.
DEMONSTRATION OF SKILLS (NOHS Statements 14, 26 & 31)
Students are required throughout this program to learn in the classroom and translate that knowledge into skills. Students practice these skills through classroom activities and their field practice experiences. Since this is a “building block” program, it is important to note that skills taught early in the program will be built upon in the advanced courses and field practice experiences. Students are asked to identify, give examples and demonstrate the use of a variety of skills when working with clients.

The inability to demonstrate effective skills in assignments or at the field placement site may earn the student a failing grade.

ACCEPTANCE OF OTHERS (NOHS Statements 17-21)

Students need to be able to work with diverse people. Students who recognize and value differences in people demonstrate acceptance of others.

A lack of acceptance of others would be demonstrated by:

- making comments that are viewed as judgmental and offensive by others
- making stereotypical statements about others
- inability to see beyond one’s own experiences when considering others’ concerns
- being unwilling to explore how one’s own values could be detrimental to others
- blaming clients for their current life situations
- using hostile or offensive language when sharing opinions that are different from others
- using humor that is insensitive (racial, sexist, homophobic, classist, etc…)

EMOTIONAL STABILITY (NOHS Statement 36)

Students need to be able to demonstrate appropriate expression of emotion. Students who are experiencing difficult life circumstances must able to remain professional and therapeutic when interacting with clients and staff. Students experiencing personal issues should seek appropriate professional help.

A lack of emotional stability would be demonstrated by:

- inappropriately discussing their own personal problems/difficulties in classroom, on discussion board postings, or at the field placement site
- failing to seek professional help when problems are impeding performance
- failing to follow clinical recommendations from professionals (i.e., counseling, medication)
- expression of distressed personal emotions in the presence of clients
- expression of emotions seen as extreme or unwarranted by others

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION (NOHS Statements 22, 23 & 28)

Students are able to clearly communicate their thoughts and ideas with instructors, peers, field placement agency staff and clients. Asking questions and seeking clarification are important aspects of communication. Students listen to what is being communicated to them and respond in a respectful manner. When verbal or written communication issues emerge, students will seek ways to improve or resolve these issues.

A lack of appropriate interpersonal communication and interaction would be demonstrated by:
failing to ask questions or seek clarification to adequately perform a task
- failure to successfully complete the interview process at the field placement site
- refusing to consider or responding defensively to feedback
- bullying or other behavior that is hostile, intimidating or threatening
- failure to recognize or explore how one’s behavior is impacting others after receiving feedback
- inappropriate or excessive self-disclosure in the classroom or field placement setting
- failure to modify behaviors (such as side conversations, self-disclosure, tardiness) after being given feedback
- participation in gossip/slander in verbal, written and cyber communication
- not seeking assistance when communication deficits are pointed out
- failing to participate in conferences as requested by faculty or field supervisor
- inappropriate recording (documentation) in a client’s record
- removal of client record from the field placement site
- failure to respond to faculty or administrative requests for individual meetings
- unprofessional use of email and blackboard with instructors and peers (Please review Netiquette guidelines)

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY  (NOHS Statement 35)

Students are aware of and abide by the professional codes of conduct and ethics which have been established for the Human Services professions. Students behavior inside and outside of the academic setting adhere to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Students suspected of alcohol/drug use impacting performance may be required to submit to a drug screen. Incidents of plagiarism result in a “0” for the assignment, are reported to the student conduct coordinator and may result in disciplinary action.

A lack of personal and professional integrity may be demonstrated by:

- any form of academic dishonesty including unintentional plagiarism, cheating
- bullying or other behavior that is hostile, intimidating or threatening
- not working within one’s own area of competence and scope of practice
- demonstrating behaviors and/or making comments that are seen as potentially causing harm to clients
- involvement with illegal activities at any time
- use of illegal substances or abuse of a legally procured substance
- coming to class or field placement under the influence of alcohol
- participating in class or field placement when impaired
- failing to report concerns of client abuse or neglect
- making commitments to clients that the student is unable to keep
- a breech of confidentiality in seminar or in the field
- theft or misuse of college or field placement agency resources
- inappropriate and/or unprofessional electronic correspondence with instructors, agencies and peers (Please review Netiquette guidelines)

RESPONSIBILITY  (NOHS Statement 28)
Responsibility is demonstrated by students’ adherence to the college and the SAHS Program Code of Conduct, this includes attending classes on time and for the scheduled duration of class. It is also demonstrated by participating in the field placement sites as scheduled. Responsibility is also demonstrated by completing assignments on time and meeting clinical expectations in a timely manner.

Irresponsibility may be demonstrated when:
- students do not adhere to the college or SAHS Code of conduct
- students engage in behaviors that are disrespectful to peers, instructors, and agency staff and/or clients at field placement site
- students are repeatedly tardy to class or field placement
- students repeatedly leave class early or do not return from a break in a timely manner
- students do not meet deadlines specified in written program communication
- students do not call an agency when they are late or absent
- students do not take responsibility to make up missed placement days
- students do not take responsibility to get course content or notes from peers when absent from class
- students do not complete classroom assignments or clinical expectations as assigned

SELF-AWARENESS AND MATURITY (NOHS Statement 36)

Students need to be aware of their own behavior, values and attitudes and how they may impact others. Seeking and responding to feedback demonstrates maturity. Being aware of one’s limitations and strengths also demonstrates maturity. Recognizing and functioning within one’s role as a student and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries are important behaviors.

A lack of self-awareness and maturity may be demonstrated in:

- a student’s inability to accept or explore critical feedback without defensiveness
- a student’s inability or unwillingness to modify behaviors that have been identified as detrimental to the profession
- inappropriate self-disclosure in the classroom and/or at field placement with clients, co-workers or field instructor
- inappropriate attire in the classroom or agency
- using humor that is degrading or sexual in nature
- failure to communicate ‘impairment’ to supervisors at the college or agency
- inability to recognize need for enhanced knowledge and skills thus working outside one’s scope of practice
- breaching personal and professional boundaries with clients and workers

Failure to abide by and demonstrate these expectations may result in a student not being granted admission to the SAHS program and/or being removed from the program.

References


PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

As a student pursuing education in the Social and Human Services Program, I am aware of the need to maintain the professional integrity of this program and the Human Services Profession. I understand that special care is taken to ensure that persons being trained to work with clients are mature, competent and emotionally stable.

I am aware that I will be evaluated on an ongoing basis in the following areas:

- Academic Performance
- Acquisition of Knowledge
- Demonstration of Skills
- Acceptance of Others
- Emotional Stability
- Interpersonal Communication and Interaction
- Personal and Professional Integrity
- Responsibility
- Self-awareness and Maturity

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the ‘Professional Commitment’ guidelines and understand the expectations of this department. As a student, I understand that I am expected to view, read and will be held to the standards as revisions are made and posted on the SAHS Student Community in blackboard.

I understand that the evaluation process occurs in the classroom, field placement sites, during conferences with faculty and during interaction with peers. I am aware that should there be a concern about my suitability for this program, I will need to meet with the appropriate persons (advisor and/or chairperson) to discuss any issues arising from my behavior. I am aware that I may not be admitted to the program if there are concerns about my suitability for the program. In the event that I am terminated from field placement site or do not successfully pass a field placement experience, I may be removed from the program.

I understand that I may be required to submit to a drug screen as required by the program or an agency partner as either pre-admission to a field placement or as a result of an identified concern, within 8 hours of the notification and will be responsible to pay for this myself. Some practicum sites may require additional steps for students to complete before beginning their practicum experience such as drug screening, immunizations, TB test, Flu shot, Background check, First Aid, CPR. Any of these requirements could be at the student’s expense, according to the agency’s policies and procedures.

I understand that I will need to have a background check conducted at my expense according to SAHS program timeframes and guidelines. I will not be considered for admission to the program until this process is complete.

I am aware that a breach of these expectations or the student code of conduct, including, but not limited to, confidentiality in the field practice experience or seminar will result in disciplinary action which may include removal from this program.

___________________________  ____________________________  ____________
Student Name – Print Legibly                Student Signature                                             Date

Cougar ID

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Witness                                                                  Date

Revised 7/1/15