

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

Teacher Candidates' Code of Professional Ethics

As Educators we realize the trust placed in us by the community—the preparing of its children for their future place in society. We are awed by the magnitude of this responsibility and wholeheartedly accept its challenges because we believe that all children can learn.

This Code of Ethics is our pledge to the community that we will vigilantly pursue the highest standards of performance from our professional ranks; that we will carefully nurture the students entrusted to our care; and that we will make an effort to interact with all members of society, who like educators, are concerned with the rights and well-being of our young people.

The goal of an Educator is to inspire students toward excellence while promoting learning as a lifelong process. The Educator has the responsibility of teaching this nation's greatest natural resource. Therefore, it is imperative that the Educator teaches and believes in the dignity and integrity of all students. The Educator needs to be of good moral character and model the appropriate social skills and values. The Educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

Regarding Professional Competency, the Educator shall:

- Possess a mastery of academic content areas and a mastery of instructional skills to practice the art of teaching.
- Strive to achieve and maintain the highest degree of professional competency and will always uphold the honor, dignity and ethical standards of their profession.
- Exert every effort to raise professional standards, to promote a climate that encourages the true exercise of reflective teaching, professional judgment and to foster collaborative relationships among colleagues, parents and community.
- Recognize the need for continuing professional and educational development, and pursue opportunities to acquire new skills, develop new techniques, and become informed of new research methods, and educational technology.
- Make every effort not to allow personal problems or conflicts to interfere with professional effectiveness.
- Maintain professional relationship with students, parents, school personnel, and the community.
- Respect each person with whom he/she is working, and deal justly and impartially with each regardless of his/her physical, mental, emotional, political, economic, social, cultural, racial characteristics or sexual and religious preferences.
- Be committed to the holistic, integrative development of youth including caring for special needs children, teaching critical, creative and ethical thinking with a dedication to social justice.

Regarding Students, the Educator shall:

- Base relationships on integrity and mutual trust; the Educator shall recognize and reflect a concern for student dignity.
- Not tolerate policies, procedures, or attitudes that impede student success.
- Strive to help each student realize his/her potential as a worthy and effective member of a democratic society by developing a personal code of democratic values.

- Work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals and moral character.

- Prepare students for full participation in a global, multicultural society by facilitating independent action and differing viewpoints.

- Respect students' right to privacy and confidentiality.

- Acknowledge his/her position as a role model for students.

Regarding Parents, the Educator shall:

- Recognize the importance of parental support and seek to obtain this by establishing contact with parents.

- Communicate with parents about their child regarding progress and problems in a truthful and timely manner.

- Communicate to the parents recommendations meeting the educational needs of their children.

- Respect the parent's right to privacy and confidentiality except in cases of abuse.

- Attempt to become aware of the student's home situation through encouraging and facilitating frequent and open communication between the home and school.

Regarding the School System, the Educator shall:

- Become knowledgeable of the organization, philosophy, goals, objectives, and methodology of the school system for which he/she works.

- Recognize that an understanding of the goals, process, and legal requirements of the educational system is essential for an effective delivery of educational services.

- Be familiar with the curriculum, instructional materials, and teaching strategies of the school for which he/she works.

- Recognize the need to familiarize him or herself with the attitudes and expectations of the community.

- Actively engage in activities directed toward developing and improving the educational system.