

Detroit Mercy Student Government Code of Ethics and Values

This code is the product of a multi-year process of engagement with UDM student leaders, conducted by Student Government leaders over multiple years. This is a representation of the standards and values that our student representatives hold. This is strictly affiliated with the University of Detroit Mercy's Student Government Association.

Preamble

The University of Detroit Mercy's Student Government Association (UDMSGGA), hereinafter referred to as SGA, is the official body representing all constituents' diverse issues, concerns, compliments, and needs at the University of Detroit Mercy. We involve students in a collaborative and productive partnership in governance between the University and our constituents. SGA aims to promote the welfare and unity between the community, furthering the goals and values of our Jesuit-Mercy institution. For this, UDM's SGA has created and adopted this Code of Ethics and Values (hereinafter referred to as our Code) to (1) live out the mission embraced in our Constitution; (2) live out the mission and vision embraced in our University; (3) and establish basic standards and expectations of ethical behavior for personal and professional life. Every SGA representative is a signatory to the Code, which symbolizes a united pledge to abide by the spirit and principle of the University. These values recapitulated in this Code represent equally significant guiding ideals of the Organization, and representatives hold themselves and each other accountable for adherence.

Behavioral Standards and Values

1) As an SGA Representative, I value *Integrity*

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Holding myself, administrators, fellow members, and constituents accountable for their actions and responsibilities.
- ii) Taking on responsibilities I believe I can uphold.
- iii) Understanding where I, administrators, fellow members, or constituents may excel, and working with them accordingly.
- iv) Understanding mine, administrators, fellow members, or constituents' shortcomings, and working with them accordingly.

2) As an SGA Representative, I value *Honesty*

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Expressing my opinion and the opinions of who I represent on issues, even if our view is unpopular.
- ii) Expressing gratitude or constructive criticism to all members in a professional manner, regardless of the situation.
- iii) Abstaining or recusing myself from decision-making processes in all situations where I may have a conflict of interest, when I believe I cannot exercise impartial interest, or in any instance where I believe I cannot properly represent my constituents.

3) As an SGA Representative, I value *Commitment*

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Continuing to pursue goals, act with a purpose, and challenge myself for the betterment of my community.
- ii) Making an effort to show up for myself, fellow Executive Board, fellow Senators, fellow administration, and fellow constituents.
- iii) Valuing and respecting our process and patiently representing my constituents, regardless of the outcome.

4) As an SGA Representative, I value **Communication**

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Clearly articulating my opinions and the messages of others.
- ii) Relaying information to my fellow administrators, Executive Board, Senators, Committees, and constituents efficiently and accurately.
- iii) Asking questions and advocating for myself and others if I disagree or need clarification.
- iv) Seeking constructive feedback from a diverse group of people to actively promote and carry out the mission and goals of the organization.
- v) Acting on behalf of the institution or organization when it is requested of me or when I am authorized to do so.

5) As an SGA Representative, I value **Representation**

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Advocating and speaking on behalf of all people, regardless of position, background, status, or personal relationship.
- ii) Allowing all people to express their questions, comments, compliments, or concerns.
- iii) Actively listening and engaging with all people, reassuring them and considering all perspectives.

6) As an SGA Representative, I value **Connection**

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Understanding myself, the people I work with, and the people I represent on a deep and holistic level.
- ii) Seeking similarities with other groups and representatives.
- iii) Understanding, respecting, and considering the differences and perspectives of people and groups.
- iv) Professionally engaging in enriching, valuable conversations with others, regardless of personal relationships or shortcomings.

7) As an SGA Representative, I value ***Experience***

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Utilizing my past to express my opinions.
- ii) Understanding that others have not lived in my shoes and using it as a vessel to express my opinions and advocate for others.
- iii) Understanding that I have not lived in the shoes of others and using that to listen and engage with others, even if I do not agree with them.
- iv) Conversating empathically, understanding sympathetically, and advocating kindly.

8) As an SGA Representative, I value ***Inclusivity***

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Advocating for all parties, regardless of their status with no one left behind.
- ii) Understanding that not everyone learns, leads, or understands like I do, and communicating accordingly.
- iii) Ensuring that all information is accessible and understandable to everyone.
- iv) Representing all people with fairness, empathy, kindness, and collaboration.

9) As an SGA Representative, I value ***Transparency***

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Communicating openly and honestly with all parties.
- ii) Representing myself, SGA, and my community by actively communicating with others.
- iii) Expressing myself and others with unapologetic authenticity.
- iv) Creating a safe and open environment for myself and others to be honest and heard.

10) As an SGA Representative, I value ***Service***

a) In practice, this value looks like:

- i) Making an effort to assist others in any capacity I am able.
- ii) Focusing on the needs and wants of the student body before considering my personal interests.
- iii) Leading through action and by example.
- iv) Fairly and accurately representing and assisting my community.