

Professional Ethics

The University subscribes to the AAUP statement below: [AAUP 2009 statement on professional ethics](#) of the [American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\)](#).

1. Professors, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subject is to seek and state the truth as they see it. To this end, professors devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although professors may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.
2. As teachers, professors encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline. Professors demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. Professors make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to ensure that their evaluations of students reflect each student's true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. They avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. They acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom.
3. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates, even when it leads to findings and conclusions that differ from their own. Professors acknowledge academic debt and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. Professors accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.
4. As members of an academic institution, professors seek, above all, to be effective teachers and scholars. Although professors observe the stated regulations of the institution, provided the regulations do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. Professors give due regard to their paramount responsibilities within their institution in determining the amount and character of work done outside it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, professors recognize the effect of their decision on the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions.
5. As members of their community, professors have the rights and obligations of other citizens. Professors measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their subject, to their students, to their profession, and to their institution. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for their college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.

- Approved by the Board of Visitors
September 22, 1994
- Transitioned to University-Level Policy
December 10, 2021, and updated

Commented [A1]: Deans Policy Review Complete
Sending to AALT just for awareness
AALT review complete
ready for faculty senate review.

This is verbatim from AAUP policy so no edits are being considered.

Deleted: following

Commented [A2]: This is verbatim from AAUP, so probably should not be edited. I suggest rejecting the few stylistic edits below.

Commented [A3R2]: Should we have the AAUP language repeated verbatim or point/link to the most recent language?

Commented [A4R2]: Some of this language is repeated in our new draft faculty code of conduct. Could we refer to this statement in that code?

Commented [A5R2]: Works for me. We could link to it directly and to this page of the handbook.

Commented [A6R2]: we agreed to keep this

Commented [A7R2]: edits were reversed already

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