

University of Adelaide Master of Psychology

Code of Conduct

As a student in the Master of Psychology program:

1. HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

I will:

Maintain the highest standards of personal and academic honesty;
Be truthful in verbal and in written communications;
Acknowledge errors of omission and commission to colleagues and clients;
Clearly identify myself and my professional level to clients and staff;

I will not:

Allow myself as a Provisional Psychologist to be introduced as a Registered Psychologist;
Knowingly mislead others;
Cheat, plagiarise, or otherwise act dishonestly.

2. RESPECT FOR PERSONS

I will:

Treat clients, colleagues, other professionals, students, and teachers with respect;
Acknowledge the importance of teamwork and accord all members of the team with respect and acknowledgment of their role;
Treat clients and their relatives with respect; be sensitive and responsive in providing information and support;
Respect the privacy of clients;
Ensure that my personal beliefs do not prejudice the provision of care;
Have knowledge of, respect for and sensitivity towards, the cultural needs of the community I serve, including those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Only take a history from or undertake an intervention with a client if the client's or guardian's informed consent has been obtained. If it is not practicable to obtain informed consent, I realise that I must seek authorisation in advance from a supervising registered practitioner.

I will not:

Use offensive language, verbally or in writing, when referring to clients (whether in person or on paper), or to colleagues or other persons with whom I come into contact;
*Harass others physically, verbally, psychologically, or sexually;
*Discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, ethnicity, disability, age, or sexual orientation;
Express my personal beliefs, including political, spiritual, religious or moral beliefs, to my patients in ways that exploit their vulnerability or that are likely to cause them distress.

3. RESPECT FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

I will:

*Respect the client's right to decide who has information about them, acknowledging that relatives and/or visitors may only receive information about the client and their care if nominated by the client to do so;

*Maintain the integrity of computer systems by not revealing passwords or other data which could compromise technological systems;

*Protect client-related information (case notes and tests, for example) by ensuring that information is not lying unsecured, or taken home or, for example, carried in such a way that they may be read by a casual unauthorised observer.

*Only look up confidential data when there is a professional "need to know";

I will not:

*Share the medical or personal details of a patient or client, even after death, with anyone except those professionals integral to the well being of the patient or within the context of an educational endeavour;

*Gain access to any medical or other data not specifically related to my learning or share confidential data on clients, colleagues, friends, relatives, or myself;

*Discuss clients or their illnesses/problems in public places where the conversation may be overheard;

*Publicly identify clients, in spoken words or in writing, without adequate justification;

*Take photographs of clients;

*Invite or permit unauthorized persons into client care areas of the institution.

4. PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR: RELIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I will:

Conduct myself professionally - in my demeanour, use of language, reliability, and appearance - in the presence of clients, in the classroom, and in any educational, placement or research setting;

Be aware of my personal limitations and deficiencies in knowledge, abilities, and skills and know when and whom to ask for supervision, assistance, or consultation;

Ensure all communications are written legibly and countersigned by the appropriate supervisor;

Seek guidance when I feel that I should avoid client involvement when I am ill, distraught, or overcome with personal problems;

Be aware of and honour the fact that a client's well-being is a psychologist's main focus and primary responsibility, and that the client's well-being takes precedence in all situations;

Dress in a neat, clean, professionally appropriate manner;

Maintain a professional composure despite the stresses of fatigue, professional pressures, or personal problems;

Seek to maximise my physical and psychological health, including having a general practitioner outside of my family and ensuring that I have access to independent and objective medical and psychological care;

Share information appropriately among members of a team to promote effective and safe client care;

Consider the most appropriate means of addressing clients, such as whether surnames should be used.

I will not:

Engage in unsupervised involvement in areas or situations where I am not adequately trained or do not feel confident;
*Engage in intimate or sexual relationships with clients or members of their families;
*Abuse alcohol or other drugs that could diminish the quality of my client care or academic performance, and I understand that violation of this could result in the loss of my right to practice;
Write offensive or judgmental comments in clients' case notes;
Criticize the decisions of colleagues in the presence of clients;
*Misuse electronic mail or post inappropriate material on internet sites, for example, Facebook.

5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

I will:

Be sensitive to conflicts of interest;
Resolve all conflicts of interest in favour of the client;

I will not:

Obtain or witness the signature by or on behalf of a client on a consent to treatment form or other legal documents. An exception may occur in performance of my duties under supervision in a research project approved by a properly constituted human research ethics committee as part of my studies.

6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEER BEHAVIOUR

I will:

*Identify impaired students, physicians, nurses, and other workers with the assistance of the appropriate Master of Psychology staff. Impairment is defined as a person who has a physical or mental impairment, disability, condition or disorder (including substance abuse or dependence) that detrimentally affects or is likely to detrimentally affect the person's capacity to practise the profession.'
Report serious breaches of the Code of Conduct to the appropriate person.
Indicate disapproval and/or seek appropriate intervention if less serious breaches are observed.

7. RESPECT FOR PROPERTY AND LAWS

I will:

*Adhere to the regulations and policies of the University, its component institutions, and those of any other educational setting, e.g., policies governing fire safety, hazardous waste disposal, and universal precautions:
*Adhere to local, state, and federal laws and regulations:

I will not:

*Misappropriate, destroy, damage, or misuse property of the University, placement or research settings.

8. INTEGRITY IN RESEARCH

I will:

Report research results honestly in scientific and scholarly presentations and publications.
When publishing and presenting reports, give proper credit and responsibility to colleagues and others who participated in the research;
Report research findings to the public and press honestly and without exaggeration;
Avoid potential conflicts of interest in research;
Adhere to the institutional regulations that govern research using human participants and where relevant, animals.

I have read, understood and agree to abide by the Code

Name _____

Address _____

Student ID _____

Signature _____

Date _____