

Social Media Policy for BSW and MSW Students

Students are expected to adhere to the standards and guidelines of the social work profession when interacting with classmates, field instructors and colleagues using social media or social networking sites such as, but not limited to, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, Flickr and LiveJournal. Establishing informal relationships with faculty and clients through social media and networking sites can make it difficult to maintain professional boundaries and are thus not appropriate.

Students should be aware that all social networking postings can potentially be made available to the public at large including their prospective clients, employers and colleagues. Privacy settings are never absolute, and confidential or personal information about peers, clients, and faculty should not be posted online. It is expected that students follow confidentiality standards in *both* face to face and online environments.

Before communicating online, students are cautioned to think through carefully their postings which reflect on themselves, their field agency, the IUSSW and the social work profession itself. All postings should be professional and respectful in tone including those “private” posts between site members. Violations of the NASW Code of Ethics as evidenced online can result in disciplinary action including an official student review and/or possible dismissal.

Note the applicable portions of the NASW Code of Ethics include: 2. SOCIAL WORKERS’ ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO COLLEAGUES 2.01 Respect and 2.02 Confidentiality; 4.06 Misrepresentation (a) Social workers should make clear distinctions between statements made and actions engaged in as a private individual and as a representative of the social work profession, a professional social work organization, or the social worker’s employing agency. (b) Social workers who speak on behalf of professional social work organizations should accurately represent the official and authorized positions of the organizations; 5. SOCIAL WORKERS’ ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION 5.01 Integrity of the Profession (a) Social workers should work toward the maintenance and promotion of high standards of practice.