

SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

PURPOSE: To describe normative and expected standards of behavior for LSUA faculty.

GENERAL POLICY

Professional ethics include all appropriate sections of the LSU By-Laws and Regulations and the following statements from the American Association of University Professors Policy Documents and Reports (1977, pp 65-67).

1. The professor, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognizes the special responsibilities placed upon him. His primary responsibility to his subject is to seek and to state the truth as he sees it. To this end he devotes his energies to developing and improving his scholarly competence. He accepts the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. He practices intellectual honesty. Although he may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise his freedom of inquiry.
2. As a teacher, the professor encourages the free pursuit of learning in his students. He holds before them the best scholarly standards of his discipline. He demonstrates respect for the student as an individual, and adheres to his proper role as intellectual guide and counselor. He makes every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that his evaluation of students reflects their true merit. He respects the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. He avoids any exploitation of students for his private advantage and acknowledges significant assistance from them. He protects their academic freedom.
3. As a colleague, the professor has obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. He respects and defends the free inquiry of his associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, he shows due respect for the opinions of others. He acknowledges his academic debts and strives to be objective in his professional judgement of colleagues. He accepts his share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of his institution.
4. As a member of his institution, the professor seeks above all to be an effective teacher and scholar. Although he observes the stated regulations of the institution, provided they do not contravene academic freedom, he maintains his right to criticize and seek revision. He

determines the amount and character of the work he does outside his institution with due regard to his paramount responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of his service, he recognizes the effect of his decision upon the program of the institution and gives due notice of his intentions.

5. As a member of his community, the professor has the rights and obligations of any citizen. He measures the urgency of these obligations in the light of his responsibilities to his subject, to his students, to his profession, and to his institution. When he speaks or acts as a private person, he avoids creating the impression that he speaks or acts for his college or university. As a citizen engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, the professor has a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.

Specific responsibilities of the faculty include the following:

1. A teacher will maintain a clear connection between the advance description and the conduct and content of each course presented to ensure efficient subject selection by students.
2. A teacher will maintain course syllabi which clearly state the course goals and will inform students of course requirements and testing and grading policies; moreover, these policies should be intellectually justifiable and consistent with the rules and regulations of the academic department.
3. A teacher will prepare and deliver lectures, lead discussions, conduct laboratory demonstrations and perform other activities which are related to and meet the requirements of the courses.
4. A teacher will conduct appropriate evaluations of student performance and assign grades on the basis of such evaluations and maintain records of student attendance and grades.
5. A teacher will participate in the development and revision of course content, textbook/equipment selection, instructional materials, and teaching assignments, scheduling.
6. A teacher will maintain professional skills and subject expertise through study and involvement in professional organizations.
7. A teacher will work with students and employers in occupational settings, on-the-job training, practicums, internships, and similar work-related situations as needed.
8. A teacher will serve on departmental, college, and institutional committees as needed to assist in policy development, promotion or tenure review, and other matters to benefit the university.

9. A teacher will plan and regulate class time with an awareness of its value for every student and will meet classes regularly.
10. A teacher will remain available to students and will announce and keep office hours convenient to students and give academic and career advisement or assistance as appropriate.
11. A teacher will strive to develop among students respect for others and their opinions by demonstrating his or her own respect for each student as an individual, regardless of race, sex, national origin, religion, age or physical handicap.
12. A teacher will strive to generate a proper respect for an understanding of academic freedom by students. At the same time, a teacher will emphasize high standards and strive to protect students from irrelevant and trivial interruptions or diversions.
13. Since letters of evaluation written by academic personnel may be uniquely important documents in both the academic and post-university life of a student, each academic person will strive to make such letters both candid and fair.
14. A librarian recognizes the need for continual development, maintenance and improvement of standard and specialized bibliographic resources.
15. A librarian cooperates with the faculty to develop the collection in support of the curricular offerings of the academic community.
16. A librarian recognizes the intellectual and professional obligations to the patron, the university and the community at large.
17. A librarian accepts the responsibility for the care and preservation of library materials.
18. Academic personnel will strive to protect not only their own right to freedom of inquiry, teaching, and expression but also their colleagues right to the same freedoms.
19. While in the classroom, academic personnel should refrain from adverse personal comments about their colleagues. At all times, academic personnel should exercise restraint and discretion in comments about other courses or departments in the university.
20. If constructive criticism of colleagues is necessary in the interest of the individual criticized or the entire university community, such criticism should be channeled, in confidence, toward those persons (preferably the individual concerned, but also academic superiors, faculty committees, or administrative officers) who have the power to correct or influence conduct in a constructive way.

21. Each academic person retains the right to criticize and seek to remedy, by appropriate means, regulations and policies of the university.
22. Each academic person will accept a share of the obligation for helping the university function smoothly as a living and vigorous organization. Toward achieving this goal, each will serve on committees, accept a reasonable burden of administrative duties, and work cooperatively with administrative officers of the university in order to further all the legitimate goals of the institution.