Wayne State University
School of Social Work

Policy on Social Media

The Wayne State University School of Social Work (SSW) encourages the use of technology, including, but not limited to, Blogs, Wikis, Facebook, Email, Texts, Twitter, video posts, picture sharing, interactive websites, Instant Messaging and others forms of communication to enhance the exchange of professional and educational ideas within the broader social work educational community. The guidelines detailed in this Policy will help maintain a respectful, courteous, and well-informed experience for those using the internet. Moreover, this Policy serves to protect the privacy and confidentiality of internet communication among and between SSW students, faculty, staff, and the school’s external constituents.

Policy Expectations

Copyrights. Internet posts may not include Wayne State University or School of Social Work logos, trademarks, or related representations unless granted permission in writing from the Office of the Dean, School of Social Work.

Judiciousness. Privacy and confidentiality rights of others may not be violated (including, but not limited to, classmates, faculty, field instructors, colleagues, family members, friends, acquaintances, and/or clients). Ask permission if you plan to share conversations or events that carried an expectation of privacy. What you decide to post is accessible to the masses and will be in cyberspace, so carefully consider your content.

Responsibility. Post your area(s) of expertise, people will be reading your content and many will trust that you know what you are sharing. Do not misrepresent or present as an expert on a topic if you are not skilled/trained in the area.

Errors/Mistakes. If you make an error, correct it and acknowledge it. It is important to correct any misinformation as posts in cyberspace can be accessible for a very long time. If you are planning to post an item that gives you pause, do not post it. If you are unsure, gather additional research and discuss it with a trusted colleague. Whatever you post will be attributed to you and your reputation.

Respect. Be respectful of the differences of others, including age, race/ethnicity, culture, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and/or disability. NASW Code of Ethics 1.07 Privacy and Confidentiality.

Social workers should take precautions to ensure and maintain the confidentiality of information transmitted to other parties through the use of computers, electronic mail, facsimile machines, telephones and telephone answering machines, and other electronic or computer technology. Disclosure of identifying information should be avoided whenever possible.

Phyllis I. Vroom, Dean

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