**Professional Code of Ethics for Teacher Candidates**

Southwest Christian University believes that its commitment to quality should be matched by its candidates in the education programs. Educators are important to our national well-being. They provide our society with its great leaders and productive, concerned citizens so necessary to the vitality of our democracy.

All candidates seeking admission to teacher preparation are asked to sign the agreement below. Any behavior that violates SCU’s Professional Code of Ethics may put at risk a candidate’s admission to or completion of the teacher preparation program. By signing this agreement, candidates demonstrate their commitment to become effective educators and contributing professionals in the global community.

**Commitment to Students**

The teacher candidate must strive to help each student realize his or her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The candidate must work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to students, the teacher candidate:

1. Shall support students in independent action in the pursuit of learning;

2. Shall provide students reasonable access to varying points of view;

3. Shall refrain from deliberately suppressing or distorting subject matter;

4. Shall make reasonable efforts to protect students from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety;

5. Shall refrain from intentionally exposing students to embarrassment or ridicule;

6. Shall fairly and without bias regarding ethnicity, creed, gender, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social, or cultural background, sexual orientation, or social economic status

a. Encourage students’ participation in any program,

b. Provide benefits to all students, and

c. Offer opportunities to all students;

7. Shall refrain from imposing personal religious, cultural, or political views upon students.

8. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage; and

9. Shall protect the students’ rights to privacy and confidentiality unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose and is permitted by law or is required by law.

**Commitment to the Profession**

To assure that the quality of the services of the teaching profession meets the expectations of the university, the state and its citizens, the teacher candidate shall maintain the dignity of the profession by respecting and obeying the law, demonstrating personal integrity, and exemplifying honesty.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the teacher candidate:

1. Shall adhere to SCU’s Student Code of Conduct, particularly in regard to classroom behaviors, interactions with others, and academic dishonesty;

2. Shall accurately report, in applications and in all university documents, all material facts and information related to competency and qualifications;

3. Shall refrain from disclosing information about professional colleagues obtained in the course of coursework or field experiences unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law;

4. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about colleagues, peers, or faculty members in respect to character, education, or other relevant attributes;

5. Shall refrain from accepting any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decision or actions;

6. Shall refrain from assisting entry into the program of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education, or other relevant attribute;

7. Shall model responsiveness to diverse learners, lifelong learning and reflection, and professionalism.

**Commitment to the Community**

Teacher candidates, in fulfilling citizenship responsibilities, should conduct themselves as productive members of the university, local, national, and global communities. Their actions should demonstrate their respect for all accordingly.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the community, the teacher candidate:

1. Shall endeavor to understand community cultures and relate the home environment of students to the school;

2. Shall demonstrate good human relations and communication skills with parents and others to improve P-12 schools in the community;

3. Shall engage family and community support;

4. Shall serve the community and the profession;

5. Shall use community and school resources appropriately and effectively;

6. Shall evaluate the effects of his/her choices and actions on others and make necessary changes;

7. Shall maintain the dignity necessary to gain the respect of the community;

8. Shall manifest a positive role in school-public relations;

9. Shall exhibit a tolerant, fair, and objective attitude toward other groups and individuals of diverse backgrounds.

**Candidate Agreement**

*I have read and will abide by the principles of the SCU Teacher Education Code of Ethics. I understand that the consequences of violating this agreement can include various disciplinary actions including denial or revocation of admission to the teacher education program.*

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_