

## Department of Sociology Code of Conduct

This handout codifies the standards of professional conduct expected of graduate students in the Department of Sociology. Adherence to these principles of conduct—together with good academic standing—maintains a student’s “good standing” in the Department. Students who violate this code of conduct will be dismissed from the program by vote of the faculty.

As a community, we respect the dignity, individuality, and freedom of each member. We also promote an environment where individuals and groups learn with and from each other. We aim to foster a sense of shared experience and common purpose, along with a collective responsibility for each other’s well-being, and for the well-being of the University as a whole. Although we acknowledge the difficulties inherent in creating a community of individuals who are different from each other, we remain unwavering in our commitment to both diversity and community in a context of academic excellence.

Each graduate student is expected to respect the rights and interests of the community and of the others in the community and to be personally honest. All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the University’s function as an educational institution, and with the rights of all members of the University community to attend, make use of, and enjoy the facilities and benefits of the University without undue interruption or disruption. With their professional conduct, graduate students are expected to contribute to a Department climate in which all community members feel personally safe, listened to, valued, and treated fairly and with respect.

### The key principles of professional conduct include:

- 1. Professional Competence and Responsibility:** As scholars, we strive to maintain the highest level of competence in our work. Members of the UCR academic community are committed to engage in teaching, learning, research, and community service and to assist one another in the creation and maintenance of an environment that fosters a professional atmosphere. This includes communicating in a manner that is respectful and in no way discriminates against, intimidates or harasses others, and treats the ideas, scholarship, and interests of others with respect.
- 2. Academic Integrity:** UCR is an institution of learning, research, and scholarship that is strengthened by integrity. As members of the academic community, students are responsible for maintaining this environment, and subscribe to the practice of academic integrity. This includes accepting one’s individual responsibility for their work and actions. Violations of academic integrity are unacceptable and will not be tolerated, because they devalue the teaching and learning experience for the entire community. Observing basic honesty in one’s work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe. Please visit this link for more information: <https://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policies-and-procedures>
- 3. Respect for People’s Rights and Dignity:** Respect for the rights, privileges, political attitudes and sensibilities of each member are essential to maintain the spirit of our academic community. Actions that make the atmosphere intimidating, threatening or hostile to individuals are therefore regarded as serious offenses. Free speech and peaceful assembly are basic requirements of the University as a center of free inquiry. These rights involve a concurrent obligation on the part of all members of the University, guests, and visitors to maintain an atmosphere conducive to scholarly pursuits, and to respect the rights of all individuals.

4. **Non-Discrimination:** UCR seeks to promote full inclusion of all members and groups in every aspect of University life. Diversity—one the basis of race, creed, color, sex, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, physical or mental disability, veteran status, marital or domestic partnership status, affective or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, and other protected characteristics—is a source of strength for the Department and contributes to a positive work environment. We do not tolerate any discriminatory and/or harassing behavior based on protected characteristics, and will take immediate action to end hostile environment if one has been created, prevent its recurrence, and remedy the effects of any hostile environment on affected members of campus community.

5. **Appropriate Sexual Conduct:** UCR does not tolerate sex or gender discrimination, including sexual misconduct such as sexual harassment and sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence.

6. **Appropriate Use of Electronic Media:** When acting as representatives of the Department or interacting on official UCR platforms, students must be responsible in their use of social media and should not violate our professional and academic standards in their social media activities.

**Accountability**

Allegations of improper behavior will be treated seriously and promptly. All members of the community are entitled to know what is expected of them, and to a timely, fair, and meaningful evaluation of their contributions.

**Observance of University Policies**

No set of rules can possibly address all situations that may arise. The Department reserves the right to find that other conduct not specified in this Code or UCR policies constitutes a violation of good academic or professional standing. If situations arise that seem ambiguous, please consult with departmental graduate advisors, chairs, the Graduate Division, or other campus resources.

The UCR Student Code of Conduct defines behavior expected of all UCR students. It is each student’s responsibility to know and comply with the university’s Student Code of Conduct. In addition, the violation of the laws of any jurisdiction, whether local, state, federal, or foreign, may subject an individual to disciplinary action.

**Certification:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print name], have read and understood the UC Riverside Department of Sociology Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_ [signature] \_\_\_\_\_ [date]