

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

By awarding an MPA degree to a student, Valdosta State University is indicating to prospective employers that the student is a person whom an organization would deem a valuable contributor in a professional, possibly managerial, capacity. Thus a student must demonstrate high professional standards while in the program. Students are expected to read and be familiar with the MPA Student Handbook, the Graduate Student Handbook, The Graduate Bulletin, and the VSU Student Handbook. In addition, each student in the MPA program at Valdosta State University is expected to read and comply with the following ethics statement.

MPA STUDENT ETHICS STATEMENT

As a student in the MPA program at Valdosta State University, I have read and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the American Society for Public Administration.

As a student in the MPA program at Valdosta State University, I will abide by all rules and regulations published by Valdosta State University and agree that I am subject to the jurisdiction of all disciplinary panels and procedures established by Valdosta State University to address violations of rules or the honor code of Valdosta State University. All assignments I submit to the instructor and all tests I take shall be solely performed by me, except where the instructor has requested that I participate in a group project. I will not submit work that is plagiarized or otherwise violates copyright laws of the United States of America.

As a user of the Internet courses of Valdosta State University, I will respect the privacy of other users; respect the integrity of the computer systems and other users' data. It is my responsibility to respect the copyright protection of licensed computer software. I will not intentionally obstruct, disrupt or interfere with the teaching and learning occurring on the web site, through computer "hacking" or any other nefarious methods. I understand I will be held liable for monetary damages for any such wrongful actions I undertake, and agree to the venue located in the State of Georgia.

As a student in the MPA program at Valdosta State University, I will not harass, stalk, threaten, abuse, insult, or humiliate any student, instructor or administrator by any means, including using the Valdosta State University computer system or any other computer system utilized by Valdosta State University. This includes, but is not limited to demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, sexist, or racist nature, and unwanted sexual advances or intimidations.

As a member of the Valdosta State University community, I am held accountable not only for upholding civil and criminal laws, but Valdosta State University standards as well. Enrollment does not confer either immunity or special consideration with reference to civil and criminal laws. Disciplinary action by Valdosta State University will not be subject to postponement on the grounds that criminal charges involving the same incident have been dismissed, reduced, or are pending in a civil or criminal court. In addition, Valdosta State University reserves the right to pursue disciplinary action if a student violates a standard and withdraws from the Valdosta State University before administrative action is final.

I certify that I have read and that I agree to abide by the MPA Student Ethics Statement.

Printed or Typed Name of Student

Date

Signature

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Code of Ethics

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) exists to advance the science, process, and art of public administration. The Society affirms its responsibility to develop the spirit of professionalism within its membership, and to increase public awareness of ethical principles in public service by its example. To this end, we, the members of the Society, commit ourselves to the following principles:

I. Serve the Public Interest

Serve the public, beyond serving oneself.

ASPA members are committed to:

1. Exercise discretionary authority to promote the public interest
2. Oppose all forms of discrimination and harassment, and promote affirmative action.
3. Recognize and support the public's right to know the public's business.
4. Involve citizens in policy decision-making.
5. Exercise compassion, benevolence, fairness and optimism.
6. Respond to the public in ways that are complete, clear, and easy to understand.
7. Assist Citizens in their dealings with government.
8. Be prepared to make decisions that may not be popular.

II. Respect the Constitution and the Law

Respect, support, and study government constitutions and laws that define responsibilities of public agencies, employees, and all citizens.

ASPA members are committed to:

1. Understand and apply legislation and regulations relevant to their professional role.
2. Work to improve and change laws and policies that are counter-productive or obsolete.
3. Eliminate unlawful discrimination.
4. Prevent all forms of mismanagement of public funds by establishing and maintaining strong fiscal and management controls, and by supporting audits and investigative activities.
5. Respect and protect privileged information.
6. Encourage and facilitate legitimate dissent activities in government and protect the whistleblowing rights of public employees.
7. Promote constitutional principles of equality, fairness, representativeness and due process in protecting citizens' rights.

III. Demonstrate Personal Integrity

Demonstrate the highest standards in all activities to inspire public confidence and trust in public service.

ASPA members are committed to:

1. Maintain truthfulness and honesty and not to compromise them for advancement, honor, or personal gain.
2. Ensure that others receive credit for their work and contributions.
3. Zealously guard against conflict of interest or its appearance: e.g., nepotism, improper outside employment, misuse of public resources or the acceptance of gifts.
4. Respect superiors, subordinates, colleagues and the public.
5. Take responsibility for their own errors.
6. Conduct official acts without partisanship.

IV. Promote Ethical Organizations

Strengthen organizational capabilities to apply ethics, efficiency and effectiveness in serving the public.

ASPA members are committed to:

1. Enhance organizational capacity for open communication, creativity, and dedication.
2. Subordinate institutional loyalties to the public good.
3. Establish procedures that promote ethical behavior and hold individuals and organizations accountable for their conduct.
4. Provide organization members with an administrative means for dissent, assurance of due process and safeguards against reprisal.
5. Promote merit principles that protect against arbitrary and capricious actions
6. Promote organizational accountability through appropriate controls and procedures.
7. Encourage organization to adopt, distribute, and periodically review a code of ethics as a living document.

V. Strive for Professional Excellence

Strengthen individual capabilities and encourage the professional development of others.

ASPA members are committed to:

1. Provide support and encouragement to upgrade competence.
2. Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up to date on emerging issues and potential problems.
3. Encourage others, throughout their careers, to participate in professional activities and associations.
4. Allocate time to meet with students and provide a bridge between classroom studies and the realities of public service.

Enforcement of the Code of Ethics shall be conducted in accordance with Article I, Section 4 of ASPA's Bylaws.

In 1981 the American Society for Public Administration's National Council adopted a set of moral principles. Three years later in 1984, The Council approved a Code of Ethics for ASPA members. In 1994 the Code was revised.

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February 6, 2004