

**Southern Wesleyan University**  
**School of Education**  
**Code of Ethics**

The Preamble to the National Education Association (NEA) Code of Ethics of the Education Profession states,

The educator, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurture of the democratic principles. Essential to these goals is the protection of freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards.

The educator recognizes the magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the teaching process. The desire for the respect and confidence of one's colleagues, of students, or parents, and of the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.

Within the parameters of Southern Wesleyan's mission statement and our commitment to produce "*educators who demonstrate scholarship within a Christian ethic of care*," the candidate accepts the responsibility to adhere to the highest ethical standards and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct toward self, learners, colleagues, and the community. Therefore, I make the following commitments to:

**MYSELF**

- to engage in professional development in order for my teaching to reflect current research in my discipline and pedagogy;
- to reflect on my own practices so as to develop my potential as an educator;
- to maintain a balanced and healthy life that is a model to my students; and
- to exhibit a moral, honest, and ethical lifestyle that is reflective of a biblical view of life.

**LEARNERS**

- to strive to help each student realize his/her potential as a worthy and effective member of society;
- to foster students' independence in the pursuit of learning;
- to foster students' access to varying points of view;
- to provide a safe and secure environment for learning;
- to demonstrate a nurturing and caring attitude related to students' academic and nonacademic needs;
- to treat all students equally regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation;
- to maintain the confidentiality of students' records;
- to promote learning in the context of relevant experiences; and
- to facilitate learning among all students of diverse learning styles and abilities.

**COLLEAGUES**

- to accurately represent competence, education, training, and experience;
- to exemplify honesty and integrity in the course of professional practice;
- to maintain the confidentiality of standardized test material and other information covered by confidentiality agreements;
- to act cooperatively and professionally;
- to respond to the needs of colleagues; and
- to accurately represent colleagues by not intentionally making false or malicious statements.

**COMMUNITY**

- to honor public trust with public funds and property with a high level of honesty, accuracy, confidentiality, and responsibility;
- to promote community involvement in the educational process;
- to respect the diverse nature of the community;
- to communicate in a respectful and honest manner with students' caregivers and other community members; and
- to be involved as a member of the community.

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