



# CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

As NYU Wagner students, we are not just a collection of individuals, rather a community, and we choose to recognize the responsibilities that come with membership in a Graduate School of Public Service. We commit to maintain the highest standards of responsibility in all aspects of our professional, academic, and community-building endeavors. In doing so, we aspire to create a strong culture of respect, one in which communication, open-mindedness, transparency, and diversity of opinion and experience are valued. We remain cognizant of the ways in which our actions and their consequences reflect not only our personal levels of professionalism, but also those of the entire Wagner community. We are willing and able to hold ourselves accountable for our actions. We continuously strive for mutual understanding and informed decision-making, particularly when confronted with academic and social challenges. Therefore, NYU Wagner students shall strive to adhere to the following four peer-developed principles:

## I. Integrity and Accountability

When the community at-large recognizes that the NYU Wagner Community stands for high ethical and professional standards, it garners respect and appreciation. NYU Wagner students are expected to self-monitor ethical standards and guide each other in achieving a high degree of professionalism. We expect that student actions will represent the hard work and passion that the NYU Wagner community brings to its work in public service. To maintain the integrity and accountability of the NYU Wagner Community, we ask that NYU Wagner students:

- Be punctual for all events, classes, meetings, interviews, and other obligations;
- Attend classes for which we have registered and inform professors if we expect to be absent;
- Complete the work necessary to contribute to class discussions;
- Listen attentively and attempt to develop an understanding of others' perspectives before coming to conclusions;
- Dress appropriately for events, classes, meetings, interviews, and other obligations;
- Attend all events to which we RSVP'd, classes, meetings, interviews, and other obligations, or provide advance notice if we cannot attend;
- Respect people's time and actively attend to the business at hand;
- Conduct ourselves professionally outside of NYU Wagner and represent ourselves and NYU Wagner positively;
- Uphold the NYU Wagner Academic Code;
- Use electronic communications in a manner that demonstrates civility, maturity, and common sense, with an awareness of the legal, ethical, and professional implications of

using web and mobile-based tools. When in doubt, subscribe to the three basic rules set out by NYU's Office of Interactive Media and Global Communications<sup>1</sup>:

- Be Real: Don't hide behind your screen.
- Be Smart: What you post is indelible. Think before you post.
- Be Nice: If you wouldn't say it to someone's face, don't post it. Respect yourself. Respect your community.

## II. Community

The NYU Wagner community can potentially be the most beneficial aspect of our NYU Wagner experience. To foster community at NYU Wagner, we expect and encourage NYU Wagner students to:

- Be respectful of peers, professors, staff, alumni, and guests of NYU Wagner;
- Reach out to alumni for career advice and be respectful of the time and effort alumni make in helping us develop our careers;
- Treat others better than we expect to be treated;
- Thank others for their emails and efforts on our behalf;
- Actively and warmly welcome individuals to NYU Wagner events;
- Represent NYU Wagner positively at places of employment in an effort to create an NYU Wagner pipeline for future positions;
- Foster collegiality and collaboration in classes, internships, jobs, and other activities;
- Foster team-building initiatives; strive to work efficiently and effectively in teams; hold our own weight and work diligently to reach the end goal;
- Hold team and community goals above individual goals or find complementarities between community, team, and individual initiatives;
- Support other individuals; support our teams and work for the positive collective outcome not solely for individual outcomes;
- Recognize responsibilities as an individual and professional representative of our department or program, NYU Wagner, and the university as a whole;
- Assist peers in their professional and academic development;
- Respectfully listen to one another;
- Disagree respectfully;
- Work to build healthy and sustainable relationships amongst peers, colleagues, faculty, and staff.

## III. Continuing Education and Reflection

Students join the NYU Wagner community to develop professionally and advance their careers. Such goals can be achieved through credentialing, education, experience, networking, and reflection. In pursuit of these goals, we recommend that NYU Wagner students:

- Create a professional development plan for all semesters enrolled at NYU Wagner;
- Continually examine and revise our professional development plan;
- Ask others for input and assistance at any and all stages of our professional development;

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<sup>1</sup> "Digital Respect @ NYU" <http://www.nyu.edu/life/student-life/hashtagNYU/digital-respect.html>, New York University, Office of Interactive Media and Global Communications, accessed January 10, 2013

- Provide advice and constructive feedback to peers regarding their professional development.

#### **IV. Knowledge Base of the NYU Wagner Community**

NYU Wagner students are expected to contribute to the NYU Wagner knowledge base through professional development. As professionals or professionals-in-training, we will gain expertise and information in a particular area of study or career field through academic research, internships, practical experience, the development of professional contacts, or other means. To contribute to the community knowledge at NYU Wagner, we expect NYU Wagner students to:

- Share experiences with other interested parties;
- Attend events and contribute to discussions based on your experiences;
- Develop, to the extent possible, a broad professional network;
- Contribute to academic discourse through conference presentations, publications, collaborative projects, internships, field research, and other means;
- Seek out a range of faculty and peer mentors to help prepare for a variety of professional and career roles and responsibilities;
- Stay informed of regulations and policies governing NYU Wagner and complete all required paperwork and other degree obligations in a timely fashion.

Adherence to the Code of Professional Responsibility will assist NYU Wagner students in career development, enhance our NYU Wagner experience, and benefit the entire NYU Wagner community by bolstering the reputation of NYU Wagner, its students, and alumni. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to a WSA Executive Board member.