



SUBJECT: Student Affairs

Policy 304.1 Relationships with Students

Effective:

Revised: March 2011

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Interactions between the faculty and students at Great Falls College MSU are guided by mutual trust, confidence, and professional ethics. An inherent power differential exists between faculty members and students; as a result, faculty-student interactions that go beyond their professional connection carry risks of conflict of interest, breach of trust, abuse of power, and breach of professional ethics.

Faculty members shall not engage in romantic, sexual, or exploitive relationships with students whenever a faculty member has a professional "position of authority" with respect to the student in such matters as teaching a course or in otherwise evaluating, supervising, or advising a student as part of a school program. Should such a relationship develop, or appear likely to develop, while the faculty member is in a position of authority, the faculty member and/or the student shall terminate the position of authority. Even when the faculty member has no professional responsibility for a student, the faculty member should be sensitive to the perceptions of other students that a student who has a consensual relationship with a faculty member may receive preferential treatment from the faculty member or the faculty member's colleagues.

Failure to comply with this policy will subject the faculty member to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. This policy applies also to other College employees who have a supervisory or advisory responsibility for students.

There are exceptional circumstances in which a student at the College is a spouse, partner or other individual with a previously established close person tie to a faculty member or other employee with a supervisory/advisory responsibility. This policy does not apply in such circumstances, but the circumstance should be disclosed to the CEO/Dean as soon as the employee is aware of the close relation's enrollment. The CEO/Dean is the administrative officer who determines whether an exceptional circumstance exists and, if so, the extent to which it governs employee conduct.