



National Association for
Sport and Physical Education

*an association of the American Alliance for Health,
Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*

NASPE Sets the Standard

POSITION STATEMENT

NASPE Code of Ethics for Professionals in Higher Education

Preamble/Credo

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) membership includes a great number of professionals who work in higher education environments. These professionals are committed to the worth and dignity of every individual who participates in sport, physical education and physical activity. Each professional is responsible for achieving and maintaining competency of knowledge and integrity of practice as demonstrated through fair, honest and respectful behaviors toward students, colleagues, the discipline and profession, and society. Each professional is expected to uphold the professional standards of integrity of research and practice and professionalism articulated in this Code of Ethics.

Responsibilities to Students

NASPE professionals understand that the rights and interests of students deserve priority consideration in professional endeavors. Accordingly, student voices should be heard in the process of carrying out professional duties, including pedagogical planning and assessment. NASPE professionals should treat each student's suggestion(s) with respect, regardless of the student's level of development.

NASPE professionals' responsibilities to their students are to:

1. Regard students as having equal rights to education and other professional services regardless of gender, marital status, race, social class, political convictions, ability level or disability, religion, ethnic background, national origin, sexual orientation, age or other factors irrelevant to human development and well-being. This requires that students not be excluded unfairly from participation, denied benefits, or granted advantages and privileges.
2. Support all students, including those who might lack qualities that are traditionally valued in physical education, sport and physical activity, including — but not limited to — being overweight, obese or out of shape; having a disability; lacking in strength or skill; or being averse to exercise or competition.

3. Administer pedagogical and other services in ways that avoid embarrassing or otherwise harmful techniques such as public criticism, inappropriate forms of competition and demeaning approbation (e.g., praise or compliment) or punishment.
4. Make every effort to protect students from conditions that are harmful to learning or to health and safety.
5. Model and inform students about the values that are inherent in various forms of physical activity as a means to other ends (i.e., leads to desirable health and other desirable outcomes), as well as any value that serves a purpose in and of itself (i.e., contributes directly to quality of life).
6. Model — and inform students of — the ethical requirements of sport participation, exercise and other forms of physical activity.
7. Present to students the best knowledge available from the sciences, social sciences, humanities and professional practice, and alert them to issues on which debate continues and additional research is needed.
8. Maintain one's professional role of mentor, advisor and/or professor with all candidates at all times, avoiding intimate and other unprofessional relationships.
9. Disclose student information only if doing so serves a significant professional purpose or is required legally.
10. Provide honest assessments of students' abilities, strengths and areas of improvement to them and in letters of recommendation.

Responsibilities to Colleagues

NASPE professionals believe in the organization's honorable purpose and intention to enhance knowledge, improve professional practice and increase support for high-quality physical education, sport and physical activity programs. Thus, NASPE professionals are duty-bound to act with integrity in intention, motive and action toward all professional colleagues, including — but not limited to — peers, junior faculty, research associates and students.

NASPE professionals' responsibilities to their colleagues are to:

1. Engage in ethical personal and professional conduct in a manner that does not compromise their professional responsibilities.
2. Treat all colleagues with respect and courtesy.
3. Act honestly and fairly in all professional dealings with colleagues and other professionals.
4. Assist professional colleagues with their ongoing development, as a contribution to furthering both those colleagues and the profession.

5. Verify the factual accuracy of professional information before sharing it with others.
6. Provide honest assessments of colleagues' qualifications for professional positions and/or promotion.
7. Exhibit professional integrity and serve as role models for colleagues.

Responsibilities to the Discipline and Profession

NASPE professionals are responsible for teaching, coaching, directing and guiding the learning and development of others. They serve as exemplars of integrity and the highest ideals of professionalism in teaching, research and service. NASPE professionals demonstrate trust and responsibility. They influence the growth and development of those they serve and, thus, are obligated to adhere to the highest standards of conduct. NASPE professionals exercise informed judgment in all interrelationships, so that their actions are always characterized by respect and concern for others.

NASPE professionals' responsibilities to the discipline and profession are to:

1. Attain and maintain the highest standards of professional competence in discovering and applying knowledge through continuous study.
2. Present professional credentials in a completely honest and factual manner.
3. Fulfill job responsibilities in alignment with professional, ethical and legal standards.
4. Provide instruction, guidance and other services equitably to each person without regard to gender, marital status, race, social class, political convictions, ability level or disability, religion, ethnic background, national origin, sexual orientation or age, to ensure the rights, dignity and welfare of all.
5. Contribute to the discovery, integration, application and dissemination of knowledge, and to the critical discourse about this knowledge, to help advance each discipline.
6. Uphold the highest standards of research and inquiry in compliance with professional, ethical and legal standards.
7. Assess the effectiveness of their professional work to ensure that it meets the needs of those served and to make appropriate enhancements to further this commitment.
8. Refuse to accept gifts or favors that could influence a professional action or decision.
9. If necessary, call incompetent, unethical or illegal professional behavior to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Responsibilities to Society

NASPE professionals are committed to serving the public. In upholding the standards of professional conduct, NASPE professionals believe in the potential of every person to learn about and participate in a physically active life. They continually seek to extend the knowledge base and best practice of physical education, sport and physical activity. In fulfilling their ethical responsibilities to society, NASPE professionals make their expertise and services available to each person, regardless of his or her circumstances in life.

NASPE professionals' responsibilities to society are to:

1. Adhere to the highest standards of professional best practice.
2. Discover and disseminate knowledge and evidence-based best practice to benefit those served.
3. Help establish public policies that will support the engagement of everyone in physical education, sport or physical activity throughout life.
4. Work collaboratively with national, regional and local agencies and individuals to provide information about and opportunities for all people to live healthy and active lives.
5. Help establish and disseminate professional standards and help all professionals achieve those standards.
6. Serve as a national resource for information, evidence-based best practices and research-proven knowledge to help advance society's physical, psychological, social and emotional well-being.
7. Demonstrate an awareness of and respect for different and changing cultural attitudes toward physical education, sport and physical activity.
8. Work to eliminate any harmful or disrespectful cultural traditions related to physical education, sport and physical activity.
9. Make professional services available to all segments of society.

Position Statement Task Force

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Suggested Citation:

National Association for Sport and Physical Education. (2009). *NASPE code of ethics for professionals in higher education* [Position statement]. Reston, Va.: Author.