The Bridgewater State University School of Social Work offers a professional social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. As such, it is mandated by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to foster and evaluate the development of professional behavior for all students in the undergraduate social work program. The School of Social Work also bears a responsibility to the community at large to produce fully trained professional social workers who consciously exhibit the knowledge, values, and skills of the profession of social work appropriate to their level of education. The values of the profession are codified in the NASW Code of Ethics. Given this context, all students in the undergraduate social work program will be expected to exhibit the standards of behavior discussed in this document, which will be known as the BSW Behavioral Standards.

The BSW Behavioral Standards of the Bridgewater State University School of Social Work are designed to ensure that those individuals who graduate from the BSW program meet the requirements of an entry-level professional social worker. Attention to these standards will be paid by faculty responsible for assessing course performance, by field instructors, faculty advisors, field staff, and by others with whom students interact within the School of Social Work community. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with all of the policies included in the BSW and University Student Handbooks.

Social Work students in the Bridgewater State University BSW Program are expected to adhere to the following standards in the classroom, field placement, and within the School of Social Work community:

**Behavior:** in interactions with faculty, administrators, staff, agency personnel, clients/consumers, and other students, act in accordance with the mission of the Bridgewater State University BSW Program, and the goals and standards of social work as outlined in the Field Manual, in the NASW Code of Ethics including commitment to social and economic justice, client self-determination, integrity, human dignity and human diversity (see [www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp) e.g.), and the Bridgewater State University Code of Conduct ([http://www.bridgew.edu/handbook/Code.cfm](http://www.bridgew.edu/handbook/Code.cfm)) and all academic and behavioral standards as designated by Bridgewater State University.

**Self-awareness:** openness to new ideas, differing opinions and feedback from others and integration of these into professional and student roles and performance; an understanding of the effect of one’s statements and behaviors on others; the ability to modulate one’s behavior to promote a productive professional environment and appropriate relationships; a willingness to examine one’s beliefs, values and assumptions and change one’s behavior to ensure ethical professional practice.

**Academic:** critical evaluation and application of knowledge and research findings to professional performance; classroom participation that promotes academic freedom, complies
with respectful classroom behavior, complies with instructor’s directives; and allows for course instruction and participation of all students.

**Interpersonal**: interpersonal skills needed to relate effectively to students, faculty, school personnel, agency staff, clients and other professionals; these include compassion, empathy, integrity, respect and consideration, reliability and responsibility for one’s own behavior.

**Self-care**: the ability to engage in appropriate self-care, and seek resources and/or treatment for medical and personal problems that interfere with academic and professional performance.

**Appropriate use of existing channels of communication**: (e.g., faculty advisor, classroom instructors, School of Social Work administrators, field instructors) and procedures for addressing problems and concerns at the School of Social Work as outlined in this handbook; an awareness of the importance of communicating directly with the involved personnel and through the prescribed medium; an ability to provide timely feed-back and/or information in a process wherein such is requested.

**Professionally-appropriate presentation of self**: awareness of and ability to attend to issues of professionally-appropriate dress and personal hygiene in one’s course work and field placements; understanding and conducting self in a professional way within the social media context.

**Consequences**:
Failure to act in accordance with these standards may result in suspension or termination from the Bridgewater State University School of Social Work BSW Program on the basis of professional non-suitability if the School’s faculty determines that a student’s behavior has constituted a significant violation or pattern of violations of the NASW Code of Ethics or the BSW Student Manual. In addition to any sanction imposed by the Chair of the School of Social Work or the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, a student who has been found guilty by the University for a violation of the University Code of Conduct is subject to suspension or termination.

I have read and understand this statement of *BSW Behavioral Standards for Social Work Students* and the specified consequences for violating these standards.

________________________________________________________________________
Name (printed)

________________________________________________________________________
Signature & Date

Sources:
Boston University School of Social Work “Behavioral Standards for Social Work Students”