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# National Association of Foreign Student Advisers

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The following information is provided as an introduction to the world of international students for interested pastors and lay leaders. Each section is preceded with the appropriate internet link pointing the reader to the source of the information which follows. For a more accurate understanding of NAFSA please refer to these links.

Also note that each school which is a member of NAFSA will abide by these rules. To the best of my understanding it is not necessary for each church to become a member of NAFSA, as long as they can assure the local school that they will adhere to the principles outlined. The section below which is in red is per my emphasis.

[http://www.nafsa.org/about.sec/organization\\_leadership](http://www.nafsa.org/about.sec/organization_leadership)

## What is NAFSA's mission?

NAFSA is an association of individuals worldwide advancing international education and exchange. NAFSA serves its members, their institutions and organizations, and others engaged in international education and exchange and global workforce development. NAFSA sets and upholds standards of good practice; provides training, professional development, and networking opportunities; and advocates for international education.”

<http://www.nafsa.org/about.sec/history>

## What does the name "NAFSA" stand for?

The name of the association has changed since its inception in 1948 to reflect the expanding roles of NAFSA members into all aspects of international education and exchange. The original name of the association was National Association of Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA).”

[http://www.nafsa.org/about.sec/governance\\_leadership/ethics\\_standards/nafsa\\_s\\_code\\_of\\_ethics](http://www.nafsa.org/about.sec/governance_leadership/ethics_standards/nafsa_s_code_of_ethics)

## **NAFSA's Code of Ethics**

Members of NAFSA: Association of International Educators are dedicated to providing high-quality education and services to participants in international educational exchange. NAFSA members represent a wide variety of institutions, disciplines, and services. This Code of Ethics that proposes to set standards for the professional preparation and conduct of all NAFSA members must accommodate that diversity as well as emphasize common ethical practices. The Code sets forth rules for ethical conduct applicable to all NAFSA members. It does not provide a set of rules that prescribe how members should act in all situations. Specific applications of the Code must take into account the context in which it is being considered. In addition to this Code, NAFSA has also enacted guidelines for specific areas of Professional practice not applicable to all members. These guidelines are set forth in the Principles for International Educational Exchange. Individuals should recognize that professional practices in more than one area could apply to them.

*Members are encouraged to use the Code of Ethics as an educational tool for working with other members and nonmembers of NAFSA.*

*All members, whether paid or unpaid for their work in international educational exchange, are expected to uphold professional standards.*

*International educators operate in complex environments, with legitimate and sometimes competing interests to satisfy. Ultimately, their concern must be to the long-term health of international educational exchange programs and participants.*

*Sorting through ethical dilemmas is often best done with help from others, either one's colleagues in the organization or experts in the subject-matter area.*

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## 1. NAFSA Members Have a Responsibility to:

- a. Maintain high standards of professional conduct.
- b. Follow ethical practices outlined in the Code of Ethics. Strive to follow the ethical practices outlined in the Principles for International Educational Exchange.
- c. Balance the wants, needs, and requirements of program participants, institutional policies, laws, and sponsors. Members' ultimate concern must be the long-term well-being of international educational exchange programs and participants.
- d. Resist pressures (personal, social, organizational, financial, and political) to use their influence inappropriately and refuse to allow self-aggrandizement or personal gain to influence their professional judgments.
- e. Seek appropriate guidance and direction when faced with ethical dilemmas.
- f. Make every effort to ensure that their services are offered only to individuals and organizations with a legitimate claim on these services.

*Since members work in an area affected by rapid social, political, and economic changes, they must stay informed of current developments to be professionally competent.*

## 2. In Their Professional Preparation and Development, Members Shall:

- a. Accurately represent their areas of competence, education, training, and experience.
- b. Recognize the limits of their expertise and confine themselves to performing duties for which they are properly educated, trained, and qualified, making referrals when situations are outside their area of competence.
- c. Be informed of current developments in their fields, and ensure their continuing development and competence.
- d. Stay abreast of laws and regulations that affect their clients.
- e. Stay knowledgeable about world events that impact international educational program participants.
- f. Stay knowledgeable about differences in cultural and value orientations.
- g. Actively uphold NAFSA's Code of Ethics when practices that contravene it become evident.

*One of the most challenging aspects of work in the field of educational exchange is balancing among the dictates of various cultures and value systems. Members must be aware of the influence that culture has had on their own values and habits and on the interpretations and judgments they make of the thoughts and habits of others.*

**Proselytizing is defined as unsolicited, coercive, manipulative and/or hidden persuasion that seeks to influence others to adopt another way of thinking, believing or behaving.**

*While enjoying interpersonal interactions with people from other cultures, members need to avoid situations in which their judgments may be, or appear to be, clouded because of personal relationships—either positive or negative ones.*

*Although a categorical ban on accepting gifts might be impractical for members who work with individuals representing cultures where the giving of gifts is important, members need to exercise caution in accepting gifts that might be intended to influence them.*

*Members' professional and ethical responsibilities extend beyond program participants to all individuals with whom they have interactions, whether they are prospective students and scholars, friends and relatives of program participants, or the general public.*

*Students and scholars often don't understand the processes and procedures for safe guarding their rights in the United States. Members should provide information about these or make referrals as appropriate.*

*Being tolerant and respectful of different behaviors and values among individuals who are culturally similar is often more difficult than being tolerant of those differences of people from other cultures. Nevertheless, members should make every effort to show their same-culture colleagues the respect they show their different-culture clients.*

*Just as they have duties to their clients, members have duties to their professional colleagues. When members accept responsibilities through NAFSA, they should carry them out promptly.*

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*It is often tempting to overlook the long-term need for professional development in the press of daily business. Members must remain cognizant of the need for continuing professional development.*

## **3. In Relationships with Students, Scholars, and Others, Members Shall:**

- a. Understand and protect the civil and human rights of all individuals.
- b. Not discriminate with regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age, political opinion, immigration status, or disability.
- c. Recognize their own cultural and value orientations and be aware of how those orientations affect their interactions with people from other cultures.
- d. Demonstrate awareness of, sensitivity to, and respect for other educational systems, values, beliefs, and cultures.
- e. Not exploit, threaten, coerce, or sexually harass others.
- f. Not use one's position to proselytize.
- g. Refrain from invoking governmental or institutional regulations in order to intimidate participants in matters not related to their status.
- h. Maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and security of participants' records and of all communications with program participants. Members shall secure permission of the individuals before sharing information with others inside or outside the organization, unless disclosure is authorized by law or institutional policy or is mandated by previous arrangement.
- i. Inform participants of their rights and responsibilities in the context of the institution and the community.
- j. Respond to inquiries fairly, equitably, and professionally.
- k. Provide accurate, complete, current, and unbiased information.
- l. Refrain from becoming involved in personal relationships with students and scholars when such relationships might result in either the appearance or the fact of undue influence being exercised on the making of professional judgments.
- m. Accept only gifts that are of nominal value and that do not seem intended to influence professional decisions, while remaining sensitive to the varying significance and implications of gifts in different cultures.
- n. Identify and provide appropriate referrals for students or scholars who experience unusual levels of emotional difficulty.
- o. Provide information, orientation, and support services needed to facilitate participants' adaptation to a new educational and cultural environment.

## **4. In Professional Relationships, Members Shall:**

- a. Show respect for the diversity of viewpoints among colleagues, just as they show respect for the diversity of viewpoints among their clients.
- b. Refrain from unjustified or unseemly criticism of fellow members, other programs, and other organizations.
- c. Use their office, title, and professional associations only for the conduct of official business.
- d. Uphold agreements when participating in joint activities and give due credit to collaborators for their contributions.
- e. Carry out, in a timely and professional manner, any NAFSA responsibilities they agree to accept.

## **5. In Administering Programs, Members Shall:**

- a. Clearly and accurately represent the identity of the organization and the goals, capabilities, and costs of programs.
- b. Recruit individuals, paid and unpaid, who are qualified to offer the instruction or services promised, train and supervise them responsibly, and ensure by means of regular evaluation that they are performing acceptably and that the overall program is meeting its professed goals.
- c. Encourage and support participation in professional development activities.
- d. Strive to establish standards, activities, instruction, and fee structures that are appropriate and responsive to participant needs.
- e. Provide appropriate orientation, materials, and on-going guidance for participants.
- f. Provide appropriate opportunities for students and scholars to observe and to join in mutual inquiry into cultural differences.
- g. Take appropriate steps to enhance the safety and security of participants.
- h. Strive to ensure that the practices of those with whom one contracts do conform with NAFSA's Code of Ethics and the Principles for International Educational Exchange.

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## 6. In Making Public Statements, Members Shall:

- a. Clearly distinguish, in both written and oral public statements, between their personal opinions and those opinions representing NAFSA, their own institutions, or other organizations.
- b. Provide accurate, complete, current, and unbiased information."