PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

As a professional School of Social Work we are guided by the National Association Code of Ethics
https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English. We, as members of
The University of Texas at Arlington community, are committed to the advancement of knowledge and
the pursuit of excellence. Realization of this commitment requires awareness and active participation by
every member of the community. We achieve the goals of the University when we instill, nurture, and
practice the following principles:

MUTUAL RESPECT
Mutual respect is the bedrock of our principles, for it sets the stage and paves the way for everything else.
We affirm that in times of fast-paced change and potential disagreements, members of our community
build trust by finding ways to communicate with one another respectfully. With civil discourse, our other
principles will follow. Therefore, we will listen, not just to hear, but to try and understand.

CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNICATION
Mutual respect is demonstrated by how we communicate with others, and this encompasses all forms of
communication. Constructive communication begins with honesty and personal integrity, taking
responsibility for how and what we state. We affirm that constructive communication is characterized by
clarity and transparency, guided by responsiveness to situations and events, and demonstrated by
cultivating an atmosphere in which knowledge is shared. Therefore, we will elucidate and illuminate,
disseminate and share.

A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
A supportive environment arises from constructive communication, for then people feel that they are
connected to the UTA community. We affirm that every one of us creates this environment on a daily
basis through what we do. It exists through our actions and how we behave to one another. Therefore, we
will cultivate a supportive atmosphere in which our community can achieve its goals.

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS
Collaborative relationships emerge when a supportive environment exists. Collaboration requires a higher
level of involvement than cooperation, for it means actively working together and sharing common goals.
We affirm that collaborative relationships often lead to innovation and that innovation is an important part
of a dynamic university community, for it defines what we contribute to the world at large. Therefore, we
will seek to build collaborative relationships in our work and study.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE
From collaborative relationships comes leadership, as well as service to the communities that surround
our University—from the local to the global levels. We affirm that the expertise and knowledge within
our University are utilized to their fullest extents as we fully engage and interact with the communities of
the world. Therefore, we will provide leadership and service in this expansive manner.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY
Leadership and service are best achieved when we are inclusive and value diversity in our community. In
a world that requires innovative and creative responses to its problems, reaching out across divisions and
differences of all types often offers the best promise in finding solutions. We affirm that inclusion and
diversity enable us to be agents of change in an evolving world. Therefore, we will create a deep and
abiding culture of inclusiveness that can only be accomplished by returning to our first principle, mutual
respect.