Congratulations on your acceptance into the social work program.

Social Work education programs provide students with the opportunity to integrate Social Work knowledge, values, and skills. The UW-Madison BSW and the MSW are professional degree programs that prepare competent and effective graduates for social work practice at the entry and advanced levels in a variety of direct and indirect roles working with individuals, families, groups, communities, and organizations.

From the moment students enter our professional programs they are expected to comport themselves as professionals in the classroom, in field placements, in dealing with faculty and staff and with one another. In particular, this means that students are expected to adhere to the School’s Code of Conduct policies, and campus and school policies concerning plagiarism. These policies are found in the Students’ Rights and Responsibilities Handbook at http://socwork.wisc.edu/files/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf.

Social Work professionals guide their practice by adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics. From their entry into the programs, Social Work students are expected to adhere to the standards/ethics of the social work profession. Below are excerpts.

Commitment to Clients (1.01)
Social workers’ primary responsibility is to promote the well-being of clients.

Self-Determination (1.02)
Social workers respect and promote the right of clients to self-determination and assist clients in their efforts to identify and clarify their goals.

Conflicts of Interest (1.06)
   a) Social workers should be alert to and avoid conflicts of interest that interfere with the exercise of professional discretion and impartial judgement.
   b) Social workers should not take unfair advantage of any professional relationship.
   c) Social workers should not engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client.

Privacy and Confidentiality (1.07)
Social workers should protect the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of professional service, except for compelling professional reasons.

Sexual Relationships (1.09)
Social workers should under no circumstances engage in sexual activities or sexual contact with current clients, whether such contact is consensual or forced.

Physical Contact (1.10)
Social workers should not engage in physical contact with clients when there is a possibility of psychological harm to the client as a result of the contact (such as cradling or caressing clients).

Derogatory Language (1.12)
Social workers should not use derogatory language in their written or verbal communications to or about clients. Social workers should use accurate and respectful language in all communications to and about clients.

Dishonesty, Fraud, and Deception (4.04)
Social workers should not participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, or deception.

Impairment (4.05)
   a) Social workers should not allow their own personal problems, psychosocial distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties to interfere with their professional judgement and performance or to jeopardize the best interests of people for whom they have a professional responsibility.
   b) Social workers whose personal problems, psychosocial distress, legal problems, substance abuse, or mental health difficulties interfere with their professional judgement and performance should immediately seek consultation and take appropriate remedial action by seeking professional help, making adjustments in workload, terminating practice, or taking any other steps necessary to protect clients and others.

Acknowledging Credit (4.08)
(a) Social workers should take responsibility and credit, including authorship credit, only for work they have actually performed and to which they have contributed.

(b) Social workers should honestly acknowledge the work of and the contributions made by others.

As a part of your acceptance into the program, we ask that you carefully review the code of conduct and plagiarism policies in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook at http://socwork.wisc.edu/files/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf as well as excerpts and the full code of ethics. Then sign and date the statement that follows.

You can read the full code of ethics at: http://www.socialworkers.org/

**** Please sign the attached statement and retain this page for your files***
To be returned to the School of Social Work with your acceptance:

I have read the code of conduct, plagiarism policies and the NASW Code of Ethics. By signing below, I understand that I am expected to adhere to School policies and that I am expected to adhere to its precepts to the best of my abilities throughout my time in the Social Work education program.

NAME (print): ____________________________________________________________

SIGNATURE: _____________________________________________________________

DATE: ___________________________________________________________________

NOTE: If at any time during your educational experience you feel you cannot continue to abide by the Code or find yourself in a situation that challenges your ability to adhere to the Code, please see one of the Social Work advisors.