

**UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL WORK**  
**Professional Use of Self**  
**Grading Rubric**



<b>Area of Professional Use of Self</b>	Exceptional 10 points	Meets Expectations 8 points	Needs Improvement 5 points	Poor 3 points	Unacceptable 0 points
Attendance					
Timeliness					
Class Participation					
Ethics					
Responsibility & Preparedness					
Classroom Behavior					
Communication					
Self-awareness					
Interpersonal Interaction					
Self-care					
Total					

## **Definitions: Areas of Professional Use of Self**

**Attendance:** Consistent attendance in all social work courses is an expectation of our program. It demonstrates a professional commitment to educating and preparing a student for the field. If circumstances arise in which a student must be absent from class it is expected that they notify the instructor in advance. Most regional campus social work courses are held once weekly. It is a program policy that a student will receive a deduction of one letter grade on the third absence regardless of excuse.

**Timeliness:** Being on time to class, meetings with faculty, and other program functions demonstrates professional behavior and respect for others. Students are expected to be prompt.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to actively engage in classroom activities and discussions with appropriate and meaningful contributions, e.g., ask questions, share opinions/observations, provide objective feedback to peers, engage in class exercises and complete reading in the class process. It is understood that not all students will feel comfortable sharing oral comments in class. However, each student is still expected to be attentive and engaged, and to make occasional comments in class.

**Ethics:** Social workers adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics in practice. Students, who are social workers in training, are expected to abide by the Code of Ethics (where applicable) and the University Code of Conduct in all social work courses. Students should show integrity and academic honesty in all of their work. Furthermore, students should conduct themselves in line with the core values of the social work profession.

**Responsibility and Preparedness:** Professionals take ownership for themselves, their work, and their ultimate success. Students are expected to take responsibility for their learning and development during their social work education. This is demonstrated by completing required readings, activities, and assignments, as well as coming prepared to engage in class in a meaningful way. Students should use available resources to seek out answers to questions about course expectations and course content.

**Classroom Behavior:** The way students conduct themselves in the classroom is reflective of how they will conduct themselves in the field. Students should treat the classroom environment as a professional setting. It is expected that students approach class discussions and activities with respect, openness, and fairness. Students should recognize that their behavior also impacts the learning of their peers. In broadcast-connected classrooms without an instructor present students should conduct themselves as they would in a face-to-face classroom.

**Communication:** Communication is an essential skill of a professional social worker. Students are expected to engage in verbal and written communication using professional language and practices. All exchanges with faculty (including email) and peers should be considered to be professional interactions and treated as such.

**Self-Awareness:** The development of self-awareness is one of the most important processes of social work education. Self-awareness is a conscious knowledge of one's own attributes, values, thoughts, feelings, biases, and behaviors, as well as the impact of one's self on others. It is expected that students will be diligent in learning, reflecting on, and monitoring themselves in terms of how they both influence and are influenced in a classroom environment. Students should be thoughtful, open, and respectful in giving and receiving feedback from faculty and peers.

**Interpersonal Interaction:** The most significant tool that a social worker has access to in working with client systems is their own use of self. Developing an effective style of interpersonal engagement skills is critical for success in the social work classroom and in the field. This skill includes professional dress, grooming, and demeanor. It also includes attributes such as authenticity, empathy, positive regard, openness, tolerance, and assertiveness. Students are expected to practice and further develop these skills in the social work classroom.

**Self-care:** Self-care is a competency of social work practice. Self-care refers to activities and practices that can be engaged in on a regular basis to reduce stress and maintain holistic health and well-being. Self-care is necessary to be successful and effective in maintaining professional commitments. Students should begin a pattern of meaningful self-care during their academic training, and especially during their field placement experience.