

POLICY REGARDING STUDENT AFFAIRS PROFESSIONALS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

Suffolk Community College recognizes that members of its Student Affairs professional staff may choose to serve the community and their profession, as well as enhance their professional development, by operating a private practice. It is assumed that members of the College's professional staff who offer private practice services will do so ethically: by only providing services for which they possess appropriate qualifications; by seeking appropriate supervision for their private work; by accurately representing their qualifications in advertising; and, above all, by adhering to the ethical standards of their profession.

To provide an ethical context for the conduct of private practices by Suffolk Community College's Student Affairs professionals, the following policy has been established after a thorough review of the ethical standards of several professional associations, specifically, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Association of Social Workers.

I. SOLICITATION

Student Affairs professionals may not use their institutional affiliation with Suffolk Community College to recruit students as clients for their private practices.

- A. It is unethical for Student Affairs professionals to solicit students to become clients in their private practices, via verbal persuasion, or by displaying or handing out any type of business card or other recruitment materials at college-sponsored activities or college offices (e.g., the Counseling Center, workshops, classes).
- B. Student Affairs professionals shall not imply or explicitly state that their private practice activities are sponsored or recommended by Suffolk Community College, or are an extension of their professional college duties.

II. DUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Student Affairs professionals who are private practitioners should avoid dual relationships with Suffolk Community College students. A private practice relationship must never be initiated or undertaken with a student whose progress/achievement at the College may be directly influenced by the Student Affairs professional working in any capacity.

- A. Under no circumstances may Student Affairs professionals see a currently enrolled student in private practice who is registered in a course taught by them and/or engaged in a counseling or professional relationship with them at the College. Student Affairs professionals who are approached by such a student requesting private practice services or information should refer the student to, 1) the Counseling Center on the campus, and/or 2) mental health agencies and/or at least three private practitioners in the community.

- B. Student Affairs professionals who are approached by a currently enrolled student requesting private practice services who is not presently registered in one of their classes and/or engaged in a counseling or professional relationship with them at the College should also refer the student to, 1) the Counseling Center on the campus, and/or 2) mental health agencies and/or at least three private practitioners in the community.

In situations where the student refuses the above referrals and insists on becoming a client in the professional's private practice, a written disclaimer¹ should be completed before the practitioner considers accepting the student as a client in his/her practice. Should a student become a client, the Student Affairs professional should make every effort to prevent a dual relationship from developing in the future. In instances when a dual relationship cannot be avoided, the Student Affairs professional should take all precautions necessary to insure that judgment is not impaired and exploitation does not occur.

- C. To avoid dual relationships, Student Affairs professionals should not refer currently enrolled Suffolk Community College students to a colleague's private practice.

Approved President's Cabinet
June 7, 1995

¹The disclaimer should indicate the following:

- a. I understand that the counseling services are available to me at Suffolk Community College at no cost;
- b. I have been given referrals to mental health agencies and/or at least three private practitioners;
- c. Despite a and b, it is my decision to become a client in this private practice. I understand, however, that Student Affairs professionals at Suffolk Community College are not permitted to see a currently enrolled student in private practice if that student is registered in a course taught by them and/or engaged in a counseling or professional relationship with them at the College. Therefore, should such a relationship develop in the future, or should I expect or seek special services or treatment from this practitioner in his/her role at Suffolk Community College, I understand that the therapeutic relationship may need to be terminated.