

Policy on the Avoidance of Conflict of Interest in Academic Matters

In keeping with the OSU Code of Ethics, conflicts of interest are to be avoided when an instructor of record has direct oversight for academic grading of a course in which a family member* wishes to enroll. If an alternate section of the course or a different course exists, the family member must take the alternate section or the other course to avoid the conflict.

In cases where it is not possible to avoid the conflict of interest, or doing so would delay academic progress of the family member, the instructor of record must disclose the conflict to the unit head/chair prior to the start of the course. The unit head/chair or designee will serve in an oversight capacity.

The appropriate method of oversight will include, but will not be limited to:

- I. Filing a written notice of the conflict along with the management plan in the dean's office (with a copy to the Registrar) in advance of the start of the course;
- II. Evaluating grades on assignments for consistency with other students;
- III. Evaluating final grade assignments; and
- IV. Submitting the final grade.

If there is a disagreement or any perception of favoritism, the dean will have the final authority on the assignment of grades.

*For the purposes of this policy, "family member" means the instructor of record's spouse or domestic partner, child, step-child, parent, step-parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, and first cousin.