

Statement on Stewardship

Stewardship Responsibilities In The Management of Human, Financial, Physical and Information Resources

Professional Responsibility Statement

Individual Expectations

Stewardship: “The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” [Merriam-Webster’s Online Collegiate Dictionary, 2001.](#)

As someone with administrative or supervisory responsibilities, you have a stewardship responsibility to support and enhance the mission of the University, to ensure that the University fulfills its legal and financial obligations to internal and external stakeholders, to safeguard the University’s financial, human, information and physical assets, and to create an atmosphere that encourages all members of the University community to contribute to the overall excellence of the University.

This statement outlines your fundamental responsibilities inherent in functioning as a steward of University resources. It is intended to introduce these responsibilities to both employees who are new to the University documents and offices where you will find assistance regarding specific policies and procedures or forms. In addition, each campus and major unit has its own policies and procedures that are consistent with and supplemental to those that apply University-wide.

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Stewardship of Human Resources

It is vital that the University foster learning, creativity and productivity and support the vigorous exchange of ideas and information, not only in the classroom but in the work place as well. Stewardship of the University's human resources involves creating a work environment in which people treat each other with respect and dignity, regardless of their roles, responsibilities or differences. Further, it involves providing others with support, direction, and resources to allow them to accomplish the responsibilities of their jobs and to reach the goals that you set with them for professional and personal growth. As a steward of human resources your fundamental responsibilities, professionally and personally, include:

- Learning, following and upholding the University's policies in human resource management and affirmative action, including applicable external policies, and governmental and regulatory requirements.
- Maintaining high ethical standards and demonstrating integrity, honesty and trustworthiness in all that you do as a representative of the University.
- Respecting the academic and scholarly mission of the University as well as the diverse contributions of each employee that, directly or indirectly, help the University achieve its mission.
- Creating a positive and healthy work environment that will foster creativity, teamwork, collaboration and productivity among members of the University community.
- Hiring and retaining qualified and productive employees.
- Maintaining effective and efficient work processes that support the decentralized organization of the University, and minimizing waste and duplication.
- Seeking ways to continuously improve and innovate the work processes that you control or in which you participate. This includes openly sharing improvement strategies and lessons to help others learn from your experiences.
- Practicing open and direct communication in the workplace with empathy for other perspectives and reactions.
- Exerting a positive influence in the work pace through your words and deeds.
- Creating and maintaining accurate position descriptions that correctly represent job responsibilities and qualifications needed.
- Participating in candid, developmentally oriented performance discussions to identify the progress that others are making in meeting assigned responsibilities and moving towards future goals. This includes creating professional development plans to assist others in the acquisition of new skills and knowledge through education, training, networking and mentoring.
- Creating a work place where members share responsibility for supporting its mission and receive appropriate recognition for their contributions.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of University human resource data and information as required.

- Managing outside affiliations in a manner that is non-competitive with the University's mission.
- Seeking an appropriate work-life balance as a way of ensuring personal and professional effectiveness for yourself and for others.

For further information, contact the Human Resources representative in your unit, access the Human Resources/ Affirmative Action website: <http://www.umich.edu/~spgonlin/> or contact your campus HR/AA

Stewardship of Financial Resources

The University of Michigan's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and are annually audited against those standards. Stewardship of the University's financial resources is the responsibility of all employees. For people with administrative or supervisory responsibilities, financial stewardship typically includes developing, implementing, maintaining and following proper administrative and accounting procedures, as well as complying with all relevant governmental and regulatory requirements. As a steward, your fundamental responsibilities include:

- Learning, following and upholding financial policies established by the University, external agencies and individuals
- Developing processes and procedures in accordance with record-keeping requirements established by the University and external regulatory agencies.
- Expending or committing funds within approved University budgets using appropriate financial, accounting, purchasing and other approved University procedures, and maintaining records appropriate to these transactions.
- Purchasing goods and services through Purchasing and Stores to ensure fair and competitive prices.
- Monitoring your current expenditures and revenues regularly for accountability purposes including the proper reporting of time and effort and correct payment of wages to employees and payments to vendors.
- Constructing budgets based on a thorough analysis of need that conforms to University budgetary guidelines and processes.
- Establishing basic internal controls, including segregation of duties to maintain appropriate checks and balances, in order to ensure that transactions are appropriately executed and recorded.
- Being alert to control weaknesses that can lead to waste, misuse, misappropriation, or destruction of assets (including data and data integrity and taking action to correct such weaknesses).
- Reporting to an appropriate University authority all suspected or known misappropriations, misuses, destruction of assets (including data and data integrity) and conflicts of interest.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of University financial information as required.
- Performing periodic reviews to ensure continued compliance with University financial policies and administrative and accounting procedures.
- Maintaining systems security and a secure computer environment for financial and other University records.

- Maintaining systems availability while monitoring and reporting the nature and extent of processing problems.

For additional information, contact the financial or business manager in your unit, or access the Business and Finance website: <http://www.umich.edu/UM-Administration.html#finance>. You can also contact the Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on the Ann Arbor Campus, the Office of Business Affairs on the Dearborn Campus, or the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration on the Flint campus. Any inappropriate use of University assets should be brought to the attention of University Audits. The Standard Practice Guide (SPG) provides more detailed information about many of the above Stewardship statements and is available at: <http://www.umich.edu/~spgonlin/>

Stewardship of Physical Resources, the Environment and Safety

The physical resources that constitute the buildings, grounds and equipment of the University of Michigan are among its most important resources. These physical assets have been created and acquired over many years and represent to the general public and to the citizens of the state of Michigan the physical embodiment of the University. As a steward your fundamental responsibilities include:

- Learning, following and upholding University policies dealing with physical resources, the environment, and safety.
- Protecting, preserving and maintaining physical assets for which you are responsible in a manner that assures their continued existence in the best possible condition.
- Promoting the efficient utilization of space.
- Participating in the responsible occupancy and operation of University buildings, offices, classrooms equipment, etc.
- Promoting a safe and healthy environment for members of the University community, visitors and others.
- Disposal of University assets in a responsible manner that follows University guidelines.

For additional informational information, contact the Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on the Ann Arbor Campus, the Office of Business Affairs on the Dearborn Campus, or the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration on the Flint campus. The Standard Practice Guide (SPG) provides more detailed information about many of the above Stewardship statements and is available at: <http://www.umich.edu/~spgonlin/>. You may also wish to access the Business and Finance website: <http://www.umich.edu/UM-Administration.html#finance>.

Stewardship of Information and Technology

As an employee of the University, you have access to various sources and types of information and supporting technologies in order to complete the responsibilities of your job. Your use of the information and of the technology that support electronic information is governed by local, state, and federal policies. Much of the information the University keeps about individual students, alumni and employees are considered confidential and private and must be handled accordingly.

Standards and policies have been established to govern the access, release, and use of the University's information resources. To receive access to the University's electronic information resource, you must receive training in the standards and policies related to appropriate handling and use of the data and you must sign an access and compliance form indicating your understanding and acceptance of the University's policies. Staff members who misuse or abuse their access to information and technology resources are subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.

As a steward of information resources, your fundamental responsibilities include:

- Understanding and abiding by the principles of data access, privacy and management.
- Handling all university data with according to the University's data management policies, whether the data is relating to your department or to another University department.
- Learning, following, and upholding the laws and policies that protect information from unauthorized access, alteration, disclosure, or destruction.
- Storing information you obtain under secure conditions and taking every reasonable effort to maintain privacy and confidentiality of the data.
- Disposing of confidential data in an appropriate manner when you are done using them.
- Interpreting and presenting data you access in a professional, accurate manner.
- Prior to sharing data with others, ensuring that the recipient is authorized to access the data and understands his/her responsibility as a user.
- Establishing procedures and practices for purging and archiving data, taking into account requirements for maintaining, preserving, securing and accessing historical data.
- Collecting data with careful consideration to the amount of information needed to serve a defined, legitimate, and current institutional purpose.
- Using data only for the purpose for which it was collected.
- Sharing data widely and appropriately with other members of the University community to avoid unnecessary duplication.

For additional information, contact the Office of the Associate Vice President for Administrative Information Services on the Ann Arbor Campus or the M-Pathways website:

<http://www.mpathways.umich.edu/>.

The Standard Practice Guide provides detailed information related to information and technology resources at: <http://www.umich.edu/~spgonlin/>. Specific SPG sections are as follows: Section 201.12 Performance and Conduct Standards;

Section 601.5 Microcomputer Acquisition, Usage and Disposal; Section 601.7 Proper Use of Information Resources, Information Technology, and Networks at the University of Michigan; and Section 601.12 The Institutional Data Resource Management Policy.

Compliance With Legal Obligations

The University of Michigan has substantial legal and financial responsibilities in its capacities as a major employer, facility manager, and recipient of federal, state and private funds. Stewardship entails heeding policies and procedures designed to comply with the University's legal requirements. As a steward, your fundamental responsibilities include:

- Reviewing and observing all University-wide policies and procedures, as well as those specifically governing your campus or administrative unit.
- Becoming familiar with and observing all policies, procedures and legal requirements imposed on the University as the result of accreditation, or from having accepted external funds, or that result from being a public entity.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of University information as required by University policies and applicable laws.
- Refraining from all possible infractions or incidents that may create or have created possible liability for the University or its representatives and reporting any such circumstances to an appropriate University official.
- Maintaining accurate and complete documents as required by the University and regulatory agencies in order to complete with fiduciary requirements.
- Advising the chief executive of your campus or of the central administrative offices of any communication relating to the University from lawyers who do not represent the University of Michigan.

For additional information, contact: the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel on the Ann Arbor campus: <http://www.umich.edu/~vpgc/>.

Protection and assistance Afforded by the University

- While every situation must be evaluated on its own merits it is the University's policy to defend and indemnify employees who become parties to legal proceedings by virtue of their good faith efforts to perform the responsibilities of their employment.
- Employees who fail to adhere to University standards and policies compromise the institution and their colleagues, as well as themselves. You should consult policy and procedure sources, as well as your administrator or manager for guidance about properly fulfilling your stewardship responsibilities.

For additional information, contact: the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel:
<http://www.umich.edu/~vpgc/>