

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

The Student Government Code of Ethics and Conduct provides a codified set of expectations for those individuals who serve in elected or appointed positions within the Legislative, Executive, or Judicial Branches of the West Texas A&M University Student Government Association. All members of the Student Government Association, hereinafter referred to as “SGA,” are held to the Student Code of Conduct as set forth in the Student Handbook of the University. However, service as a member of the Legislative, Executive, or Judiciary of SGA, hereinafter referred to as an “SGA Official,” is both a privilege and a responsibility and as such, SGA Officials are held to a higher standard. The expectations for SGA Officials include fair and ethical behavior and full accountability to the Student Body of West Texas A&M University. As campus leaders and role models, SGA Officials must be dedicated to increased campus unity and school spirit, to full and open communication with constituents, and to efforts for positive and realistic change.

The West Texas A&M University Student Government Association is committed to upholding high ethical standards in all its activities and undertakings. As elected representatives of the student body, we pledge to adhere to the following Ethics Code:

1. **Confidentiality and Privacy:** We will maintain confidentiality and privacy when handling sensitive information and will never disclose any information that may be detrimental to the interests of the university, the student body, or individual students.
2. **Conflict of Interest:** We will avoid any conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest and disclose any conflicts that may arise during our tenure with the Student Government Association.
3. **Environmental Responsibility:** We recognize and support the importance of environmental responsibility and will strive to promote environmental sustainability in all our activities.
4. **Equal Opportunity:** We will promote and uphold equal opportunity and egalitarianism and reject any form of discrimination or prejudice in all our actions and decisions.
5. **Integrity and Honesty:** As members of the Student Government Association, we will conduct our activities with the highest level of integrity and honesty, and always act in the best interest of our constituents.
6. **Leadership:** Prioritizing understanding of peers and constituency needs, we will advocate strongly for them in conducting our duties. We will strive to improve ourselves through continuous learning and personal/professional growth in both SGA and personal settings.
7. **Professionalism and Diligence:** We will perform our duties with the highest level of professionalism and diligence, and always work towards the betterment of the university and its stakeholders.
8. **Respect and Civility:** We will treat all members of the University community with respect and civility, and model respectful and inclusive behavior in all of our interactions.
9. **Transparency and Accountability:** We are committed to being transparent and accountable to our constituents and will communicate openly about our activities and decisions.

The Ethics Code will be reviewed and updated every two years to ensure its continued effectiveness and relevance.