



Policy Title: Policy on Romantic and/or Sexual Conduct with Students and Supervisees

Policy Number: BU-PP 036

Date Issued: May 22, 2012

Responsible Executive: Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer

Date Last Revised: February 27, 2026

Responsible Office: Human Resources

Policy on Romantic and/or Sexual Conduct with Students and Supervisees BU-PP 036

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Baylor University (the "University") that faculty, staff, and graduate students recognize and respect the ethical and professional boundaries that they must maintain in their relationships with students and supervisees. Attention to these principles is essential to safeguarding the welfare of persons in subordinate positions.

Reason for the Policy

Employees of Baylor University are expected to conduct themselves and their activities in an ethical and moral manner that is a positive reflection on Baylor University and consistent with the stated Christian aims and mission of the University. Baylor University places a high value on human relations and human rights. Therefore, the University strives to maintain a learning and working environment that is based on mutual respect for all students and employees.

Individuals/Entities Affected by this Policy

Faculty, temporary and regular staff, and graduate students

Exclusions

Marital relationships existing prior to employment

Related Documents and Forms

University Policies and Documents

[BU-PP 024 - Code of Ethics and Personal Conduct](#)

[BU-PP 028 - Baylor Civil Rights Policy](#)

[BU-PP 031 - Sexual Conduct](#)

1. Policy on Romantic and/or Sexual Conduct with Students and Supervisees (BU-PP 036)

Forms and Tools

Forms and tools are available at [Report It](#) and [EthicsPoint](#).

Contacts

Subject	Contact	Telephone	Office email/web site
Policy Questions	Human Resources	254-710-2000	askHR@baylor.edu https://hr.web.baylor.edu
	Office of General Counsel	254-710-3821	https://ogc.web.baylor.edu
	Office of the Provost	254-710-3601	https://provost.web.baylor.edu

Principles

Persons with direct teaching, coaching, supervisory, advisory, or evaluative responsibility over employees, students, or student employees shall recognize and respect the ethical and professional boundaries that must exist in such situations.

It is the responsibility of the University employee (faculty, staff, graduate student) to ascertain the status of the Baylor student prior to engaging in behaviors that are covered in this policy. Negligent or willful lack of knowledge is not a defense to a policy violation.

Undergraduate Students

Because of the inherent differential in authority and the potential for abuse or the appearance of abuse, the University prohibits any member of the faculty or staff from engaging in romantic and/or sexual conduct with or directed toward any student currently enrolled as an undergraduate at Baylor University.

The University also prohibits any graduate student from engaging in romantic and/or sexual conduct with or directed toward any undergraduate student whom he or she educates, advises, coaches, supervises, or evaluates in any way.

Graduate Students

Because of the potential for abuse or the appearance of abuse and the inherent differential in authority between graduate students and their faculty members, advisors, and others holding positions of authority over them, the University prohibits any member of the University community from engaging in romantic and/or sexual conduct with or directed toward any graduate student whom he or she educates, advises, coaches, supervises, or evaluates, or whom he or she has previously educated, advised, coached,

supervised, or evaluated, in any way. This policy also prohibits any member of the University community from engaging in romantic and/or sexual conduct with or directed toward any prospective Baylor graduate student whom the member of the University community is involved in recruiting as a graduate student, or for whom the member of the University community has a role in the decision-making process regarding admission and/or related awards as a graduate student.

Supervisees

Because of the potential for abuse or the appearance of abuse and the inherent differential in authority, the University prohibits any member of the University community from engaging in romantic and/or sexual conduct with or directed toward any employee whom that person supervises or evaluates in any way. This policy also prohibits any member of the University community from engaging in romantic and/or sexual conduct with or directed toward any job applicant when the member of the University community serves on a search committee or is influential in the selection process for the position for which the applicant is applying.

Exceptions, Accountability, and Reporting

These prohibitions do not apply to marital relationships existing prior to employment with Baylor. However, the existence of a marital relationship may have implications for the propriety of one of the working and/or educational relationships discussed above, as, for example, addressed in the [Nepotism Policy](#), or as might arise in the case of a person who contemplates enrolling for a class taught by his or her spouse.

Exceptions to any of these prohibitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Provost (or his or her designee) or by the Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer (or his or her designee).

Approval for Exception:

1. A written request must come in the form of a memo from the individual with the power or status advantage in the relationship to the appropriate Dean or Division Vice President for review and approval.
2. The Provost (or his or her designee) or the Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer (or his or her designee) must respond to the request with written documentation.
3. Final written decision must be provided to and maintained by Human Resources and, for faculty, the Office of the Provost.

The individual with the power or status advantage in the relationship will bear the burden of accountability, though this does not preclude disciplinary action for other parties. Individuals who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment from Baylor University.

Individuals who are aware of any violation of this policy are obligated to report this violation to the Office of Human Resources, to the Office of the Provost, or through [EthicsPoint or Report It](#).