

8.A General Principles

The original works of the faculty— whether research, scholarship or other creative activities—are vital contributions to the mission of the University of Michigan. These endeavors enhance the teaching by the faculty, enrich the educational experience of the undergraduate students, provide the forum for the training of students pursuing graduate education, and contribute to the missions of advancing knowledge and serving the public. Details about most aspects of research at the U-M can be found at the U-M Office of Research website, referred to throughout this chapter. See handbook sections [6.B “Criteria for Tenure”](#) and [8.B “Resources for Faculty.”](#)

In all of their dealings with students, it is expected that faculty members will be fair and equitable, will support students in their own development within the University community, and will adhere to the highest standards of professional conduct.

In October 2003, the Senate Assembly adopted the document, “[Teaching Principles and Responsibilities](#).” The document was developed, as stated in the preamble, “to guide faculty administrators and staff in their efforts to sustain and strengthen a supportive educational environment for our undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.” By section the document addresses individual faculty responsibilities, and rewarding excellence in teaching.

A number of policies, rules, and regulations have been developed regarding interactions between faculty and students and the educational process. Most logistical and administrative matters, for example, class assignments, the scheduling of classes, and office hour policies, are handled by the schools, colleges, departments, or academic units. Many academic policy questions, such as issues of academic standing and drop-add procedures, are also handled by the academic units. It is therefore essential for faculty members to obtain and become familiar with their units’ faculty handbooks and/or student bulletins.

University-wide policies are discussed in handbook section [8.D “University Policies and Procedures Affecting Students”](#). Many of these policies are included in a set of University policies for students that is published online by the [Office of Student Conflict Resolution](#).

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