

Winthrop University
College of Arts and Sciences
COI in Teaching
Scope

This policy governs conflicts of interest in teaching that may arise due to familial or amorous relationships among members of the Winthrop community.

Definitions

Familial Relationships is defined as a relative: spouse, child, step-child, child's spouse, parent, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, dependent relative or a relative domiciled in the employee's household.

An amorous relationship in this policy includes a dating relationship, romantic partnership, sexual relationship, or other intimate relationship, regardless of whether the relationship is ongoing, exclusive, or publicly acknowledged.

Members of the Winthrop Community shall include any University faculty member, staff member, or student. Members of the Winthrop community have the option to earmark other relationships for which these policies and procedures should apply.

Policy Obligations

The following principles should be employed when a conflict of interest may arise due to a familial or amorous relationship in teaching.

1. The potential conflicts of interest in teaching must be disclosed to the academic Dean at the earliest possible point in the enrollment process. The Dean will work to ensure the conflict of interest is documented.
2. Winthrop community members are prohibited from teaching (or enrolling in) a course when the instructor and a student have a familial relationship.
3. When multiple sections of a course are offered, students must enroll in a section that is not taught by a relative.
4. If a course, and concurrent and future sections of a course, is only taught by the designated related instructor, the department chair or supervisor of the related instructor shall develop a management plan for approval by the Dean before the course begins. The management plan must include the following:
 1. The development of a split section that designates an independent grader or secondary reviewer to grade or review the student's academic progress.
 2. A strategy to ensure that the student is treated equitably regarding assignments and other course activities (i.e. participation, workload, deadlines, scope of assignments, etc.).
 3. An express commitment to FERPA-compliance.
5. Members of the Winthrop Community should not use their position, professional relationships, or access to colleagues to obtain information about their relative's academic performance, grades, attendance, conduct, or other educational records outside the ordinary processes and channels available to other parents or students.