

## Consensual Relationship Policy

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Family relationships and relationships of a romantic and/or sexual nature between a faculty member and a student can present conflict of interest in violation of the New York Public Officers Law. As there may be the perception of favoritism and as such relationships can undermine the trust upon which the educational process depends, ethical principles preclude individuals from evaluating the work or academic performance of those with whom they have these relationships. Since a conflict of interest may exist in such a relationship, the faculty member should notify his or her immediate supervisor so that arrangements can be made to eliminate the conflict.

Family relationships and relationships of a romantic and/or sexual nature between members of the College community other than students can also present a conflict of interest in violation of the New York Public Officers Law whenever one party has any position of power over, or professional responsibility for, the other. As there may be a perception of favoritism and as such relationships are built, ethical principles preclude individuals from evaluating the work of those with whom they have these relationships. The party with the power or status advantage may not officially approve or recommend, or vote on such approval or recommendation of, the appointment, reappointment, promotion, or salary adjustment of the other, nor may that party evaluate the performance of the other.