

UNA Counselor Education Social Media Policy

Since new social media outlets appear every day, and profession-specific ethical codes evolve more slowly, it is essential to be aware of challenges facing counselors and counselors-in-training.

Consider the following prior to posting or transmitting on social media:

- Think before you post or transmit.
- Assume anything that you post or transmit on social media can be made public.
- An electronic post or transmission is a digital tattoo and there is currently no laser to remove it.
- Employers often search social media to learn more about you prior to interviews or offers of employment.

The following rules apply to all counselors-in-training in the Counselor Education Program at the University of North Alabama:

- Do not “friend” a client or a P – 12 student on social media.
- Do not identify your practicum/internship site.
- Do not take any pictures while on your practicum/internship site.
- Disable functions that identify your location, such as “location services,” on all social media accounts, and do not engage in any on-line activity that will identify your location, while engaging in practicum/internship activities.

- Read and follow the relevant policies of your practicum/internship site.
- Do not post or transmit anything about your work with clients/students.
- Do not post anything about your experience or feelings that pertain to working with clients/students.

As social media evolve, it is difficult to predict the latest problem that will arise. Therefore, when you have a question related to social media, consult with faculty and/or supervisors.