Faculty-Student Relationships Policy
at the University of Michigan

What is the policy?

The teacher-student relationship lies at the foundation of the educational process. As a matter of sound judgment and professional ethics, faculty members have a responsibility to avoid any apparent or actual conflict between their professional responsibilities and personal relationships with students.

Romantic and/or sexual relationships between a faculty member and a student have the potential to pose risks to the faculty member, the student, or third parties. For a variety of reasons, the University strongly discourages romantic and/or sexual relationships between faculty members and students.

In spite of these warnings, the University recognizes that sometimes such relationships occur. If a romantic and/or sexual relationship occurs or has occurred between a faculty member and a student for whom the faculty member has supervisory responsibility, an inherent conflict of interest arises.

When a conflict of this nature occurs, the faculty member must disclose the relationship to an appropriate administrator so that a resolution to the conflict can be sought.

To whom does the policy apply?

The policy applies to any University or University sanctioned teacher, mentor, or supervisor of students. This includes, but is not limited to, regular instructional faculty, clinical faculty, supplemental and research faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate student instructors, graduate student research assistants, preceptors, and graders.

To review the policy Standard Practice Guide 601.22 and a set of Frequently Asked Questions FAQs, visit the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President website.

http://www.provost.umich.edu/faculty/FSRP/fsrp.html