



Code of Ethics for ACSM Certified and Registered Professionals

Purpose

This Code of Ethics is intended to aid all certified and registered American College of Sports Medicine Credentialed Professionals (ACSMCP) to establish and maintain a high level of ethical conduct, as defined by standards by which an ACSMCP may determine the appropriateness of his or her conduct. Any existing professional, licensure or certification affiliations that ACSMCPs have with governmental, local, state or national agencies or organizations will take precedence relative to any disciplinary matters that pertain to practice or professional conduct.

This Code applies to all ACMCP's, regardless of ACSM membership status (to include members and non-members. Any cases in violation of this Code will be referred to the **ACSM CCRB Executive Council and the CCRB Ethics subcommittee**, and if appropriate the ACSM Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct as well.

Principles and Standards

Responsibility to the Public

ACSMCPs shall be dedicated to providing competent and legally permissible services within the scope of the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) of their respective credential. These services shall be provided with integrity, competence, diligence, and compassion.

ACSMCPs provide exercise information in a manner that is consistent with evidence-based science and medicine.

ACSMCPs respect the rights of clients, colleagues, and health professionals, and shall safeguard client confidences within the boundaries of the law.

Information relating to the ACSMCP/client relationship is confidential and may not be communicated to a third party not involved in that client's care without the prior written consent of the client or as required by law.

ACSMCPs are truthful about their qualifications and the limitations of their expertise and provide services consistent with their competencies.

Responsibility to the Profession

ACSMCPs maintain high professional standards. As such, an ACSMCP should never represent him/herself, either directly or indirectly, as anything other than an ACSMCP unless he/she holds other license/certification that allows him/her to do so.

ACSMCPs practice within the scope of their knowledge, skills, and abilities. ACSMCPs will not provide services that are limited by state law to provision by another health care professional only.

An ACSMCP must remain in good standing relative to governmental requirements as a condition of continued Credentialing.

ACSMCPs take credit, including authorship, only for work they have actually performed and give credit to the contributions of others as warranted.

Consistent with the requirements of their certification or registration, ACSMCPs must complete approved, additional educational course work aimed at maintaining and advancing their knowledge, skills and abilities

Principles and Standards for Candidates of the Certification Exam

Candidates applying for a Credentialing examination must comply with all eligibility requirements and to the best of their abilities, accurately complete the application process. In addition, the candidate must refrain from any and all behavior that could be interpreted as "irregular" (please refer to the policy on irregular behavior).

Public Disclosure of Affiliation

Any ACSMCP may disclose his or her affiliation with ACSM Credentialing in any context, oral or documented, provided it is currently accurate. In doing so, no ACSMCP may imply College endorsement of whatever is associated in context with the disclosure, unless expressly authorized by the College. Disclosure of affiliation in connection with a commercial venture may be made provided the disclosure is made in a professionally dignified manner, is not false, misleading or deceptive, and does not imply licensure or the attainment of specialty or diploma status. ACSMCP may disclose their credential status. ACSMCPs may list their affiliation with ACSM Credentialing on their business cards without prior authorization (ACSM certified Personal TrainerSM, ACSM Health/Fitness Director®, ACSM Health/Fitness Instructor®, ACSM Group Exercise Leader®, ACSM Program Director®, ACSM Exercise Specialist®, ACSM Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist®). ACSMCPs and the institutions employing an ACSMCP may inform the public of an affiliation as a matter of public discourse or presentation.

Discipline

Any ACSMCP may be disciplined or lose their certification or registry status for conduct which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the ACSM Committee on Certification and Registry Boards, goes against the principles set forth in this Code. Such cases will be reviewed by the ACSM CCRB Ethics subcommittee, which may include a liaison from the ACSM Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct, as needed, based on the ACSM membership status of the ACSMCP. The ACSM Ethics subcommittee will make an action recommendation to the ACSM Committee on Certification and Registry Boards Executive Council for final review and approval.

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APPROVED by the CCRB Executive Council, May, 2005

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[Back](#)