

# Apprentice & Journeymen Training Trust Fund of the Southern California Plumbing & Piping Industry

## Student Social Media Policy

### Introduction

This policy is intended to provide a context for the responsible and professional use of electronic communication/social media for A&J Training Trust students.

Broadly defined, electronic communication and social media encompass any online platform or channel for user-generated content that allows anyone to publish and access information, collaborate on a collective effort, and build relationships. Commonly known examples are but not limited to platforms such as: Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, Tik Tok, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Tumblr, Snapchat, and YouTube.

Professionalism, respect, and awareness are key factors in all forms of communication but are critical in online content due to its high visibility, permanency, and reach. The purpose of this policy is to address professional online engagement, its potential challenges, and outline appropriate online conduct.

### Personal Responsibility and Liability

Communications posted via social media are not exempt from the expectations and obligations set forth in A&J Training Trust's policies or from the laws and regulations that govern personal liability across general and traditional forms of communication. Students are responsible for content posted on their personal online platforms and on the platforms of others.

### Online Conduct

Conduct within your role, as a student, embodies both yourself and the A&J. This includes your engagements on social media, even in private conversations that could become public.

### **Appropriate Conduct:**

- Professional: Refrain from any language or posts that could be considered offensive, mean-spirited, discriminatory or harassment.
- Respectful of Privacy and Confidentiality: Respect the privacy and confidentiality of others, and the A&J. Refrain from sharing any personal or confidential information about yourself, others, or the A&J without explicit consent.
- Upholds Academic Integrity: Maintain academic integrity standards online, refrain from any form of cheating, plagiarism, or dishonest behavior, including sharing or soliciting answers for assignments or tests.
- Free of cyberbullying and/or harassment: Do not engage in cyberbullying, harassment, threats, or any form of online intimidation or abuse.
- Responsible: Ensure content shared on social media platforms is appropriate, accurate, and does not violate any laws or A&J Training Trust policies.

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## **Criminal and Civil Law Implications**

Inappropriate use of electronic communications and/or social media may result in criminal or civil charges.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Making inappropriate online comments that may lead to civil action, such as defamation.
- Disclosing confidential information about colleagues, students, staff, and the A&J Training Trust.
- Posting the work of others without proper attribution.
- Using technology to harass another student, instructor, administrator, staff member or colleague.

## **Online Content**

A&J Training Trust students shall not work on personal content during class.

## **Online Social Posting, Commenting, Networking, Perusing, Reading, Video Watching/Listening, Shopping**

Do not use any form of personal social media during class.

## **Disciplinary Implications**

A&J Students:

Using social media during class, posting any inappropriate, private, or confidential content or producing content on behalf of the A&J Training Trust if not officially authorized to do so may result in JATC disciplinary action.