The Avoidance of Conflict of Interest

Whenever possible, instructors should not teach their own children or other close relatives in a course for credit. The potential conflict of interest could have negative effects on the student himself or herself, as well as on the instructor’s relation to the other students in the course. In the rare instances in which such enrollment is unavoidable, such as when the parent is teaching a course required for the student’s major, the parent should discuss the situation with the chair of the department in advance of the course. In no event should the parent be grading his or her own child’s work; another faculty member should be asked to evaluate the work and decide upon the grade.