

School of Art Life Model Policy

All faculty members and graduate teaching assistants who utilize live models, given the inherent sensitive aspects of such activity we must be scrupulous in maintaining an appropriate professional atmosphere. Instructors should avoid any conduct, whether physical or verbal, that could be misinterpreted by a reasonable person, participant or witness, or that could otherwise cause discomfort on the part of the model or other participants in the activity. **The Life Model Code of Conduct for students, faculty, and model will be posted in the classroom and distributed with syllabi in classes where Life Models are working.**

The following excerpt is taken from *Drawing Essentials: A Guide to Drawing from Observation* (2009 Oxford University Press, New York) with permission of the author, Deborah Rockman, Kendall College of Art and Design.

Classroom Etiquette When Drawing from a Model

Modeling is hard work. Unless you have done it before, it is difficult to realize the challenges involved in modeling well. Everyone in the classroom deserves to be treated with respect, and this is especially true for the models who find themselves in an especially vulnerable position because they are nude and because all eyes are upon them. For those of you who lack experience with drawing from the figure, it is advisable to take a few minutes prior to your first session with the model to acquaint yourself with some of the rules of “etiquette,” and your instructor will hopefully review some of this information with you.

The model’s personal space is to be respected, and you should never touch the model while he or she is at work.

You should also be aware that it is inappropriate to make audible comments concerning the model’s body or appearance or to laugh out loud in a way that may lead the model to think that you are laughing at her or him. Again, because of the model’s vulnerability, it is courteous and professional to be particularly attentive to their well-being. Although it may seem unnecessary to discuss here what seems like common courtesy, drawing an unclothed model in a classroom with a group of fellow students is not exactly a “common” experience unless you are in an art school.

The models, too, should be made aware of guidelines for their behavior. During a break, you can expect that the model will wear a robe or otherwise cover himself or herself until it is time to resume modeling. Models are generally advised not to offer comments on student work since they may unwittingly reinforce something your instructor is trying to discourage or discourage something your instructor is trying to reinforce. If you encounter an uncomfortable situation with a model, your best course of action would be to discuss the issue with your instructor and he or

she can address the issue with the model. In general, common sense and courtesy provide the best guidelines.

The following code of conduct should be distributed to all students, faculty, and models and posted in the studios where Life Models work:

Life Model Code of Conduct for students, faculty, and model

1. A Life Model is a co-worker of the instructor. Instructors will conduct themselves with a high level of professionalism at all times. The instructor will not reprimand the model in front of students about not being on time or unprepared. Any managerial duties of this kind are the job of administration, and faculty should forward their concerns to the supervising faculty (Area Chair of Painting and Drawing).
2. There will always be a clean sheet for the models to sit and recline on. There will be a laundry service for the linen. Additionally, it is advised that models bring their own solid color towel to sit on.
3. Models will bring a robe and sandals or slippers to the class or life session. Models must wear the robe during breaks, the robe should be donned and doffed while the model is on the stage.
4. The Life Model will not undress or change from street clothes into their robe in view of the class. The model will be provided a private space to change in the restroom.
5. **When the Life Model is posing there is no chatting.** The only talking should occur between the instructor and the student with whom they are conversing. When the model takes the stand, the instructor will announce the session has begun and silent work time begins.
6. Instructors should not talk with the model while they are posing except to give specific instruction on the pose. When not posing, instructors should address the model only to support their work and give instructions. **Students should never address the model.** If the students have a concern about the pose, they should tell this to the instructor who may relay instructions to the model. Likewise, **the Life Model should not be talking with students on a break or while in session.**
7. Instructors will not ask the model to pose for more than 20 minutes. Models are welcome to pose longer if they choose to. After each 20 minute period there will be a 5 minute break. If it is a long pose with multiple 20 minute sessions over the course of a 2 ¾ hour class, the model will receive a 15 minute break at the halfway point of the session in addition to the 5 minute breaks.
8. **No photography.**
9. **No cellphone use of any kind.** This means turning phones all the way off and checking them only on breaks in the session (if students must).
10. The class is private when the model is in session. **Life Models should never be in view of anyone outside of the classroom when in session.** Window shades must be drawn,

and doors must be closed during sessions. A large drawing board should be placed on a spare easel in front of the door(s) to the classroom creating a screen in case the door is accidentally opened.

11. The studio should be kept at a comfortable temperature for the model. A heater will be provided if necessary.
12. **Do not touch the model.** There are some instances, with the model's permission, when it is appropriate for the instructor to draw attention to the model in order to point something out that is imperative to the lesson in the course of teaching anatomy or to regain a pose. There is never a reason to touch the model.
13. **Students will make every effort to limit setting-up or packing-up of their things during a pose.**
14. **Enrolled students will knock if they must enter the classroom late, and must wait to be let in.** It is preferable for them to wait for the instructor to let them in on the model's break. To be late to a session is extremely disrespectful to the class.

The Model Coordinator (Graduate Assistant Worker) will handle all scheduling, availability, and receive schedule preferences from Life Models and Instructors.

If the Life Model has an ordinary workplace issue with anything other than scheduling availability and preferences, they should report it to the supervising faculty (Area Chair of Painting and Drawing, Associate Director of Space, Technology, and Communications, or the Director of the School of Art.

If they have a complaint about harassment, they should immediately report directly to the Equal Opportunity Office here: <https://eoo.uga.edu/Report/>

The UGA Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy can be found here: [https://eoo.uga.edu/civil rights NDAH/ndah-policy/](https://eoo.uga.edu/civil_rights_NDAH/ndah-policy/)