

## **Eating Disorders Awareness Association**

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. Educate students, faculty, and the community regarding the etiology, treatment, diagnoses, and current issues in the field of eating disorders.
2. Promote awareness about eating disorders and coordinate the annual Eating Disorders Awareness Week.
3. Provide graduate students with opportunities for involvement in research on eating disorders and related topics.
4. Disseminate up-to-date information on research and best-practices in the field of eating disorders.
5. Advocate for greater awareness surrounding the prevalence, consequences, and treatment needs and outcomes of eating disorders.
6. Collaborate with local eating disorder treatment facilities to provide opportunities for learning and training for psychology students.
7. Reduce the stigma surrounding eating disorders.

## **Eating Disorders Awareness Association**

### **BYLAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I. INTRODUCTION**

##### **SECTION 1. Statement of Need**

The organization will support graduate students in psychology in the areas of research, education, and advocacy of eating disorders. The objectives will include:

1. Promote awareness of eating disorders through ongoing programs and the annual National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.
2. Develop original research projects and opportunities to present at conferences.
3. Provide collaboration and mentorship activities for fellow students with eating disorder professionals and treatment centers to promote professional development.
4. Foster a forum in which students may develop knowledge and skills in research, prevention, advocacy, and treatment of eating disorders.

##### **SECTION 2. Statement of Purpose**

To educate and provide graduate students in psychology with opportunities to advance their understanding of the complexities of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of eating disorders through research, advocacy, and collaboration with eating disorder professionals and treatment

centers. These articles will remain consistent with the Policies and Procedures Handbook of Nova Southeastern University

### SECTION 3. Limitations

This association shall remain non-partisan in its form and function. EDAA may educate students on public policy or legislative issues that affect prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of eating disorders. EDAA may advocate for people with eating disorders.

## ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

### SECTION 1.

*A. Educate students and faculty on the etiology, treatment, diagnoses, and current issues in the field of eating disorders.*

1. Provide students, faculty, and the community with information regarding the etiology, diagnoses, and treatment of eating disorders.
2. Provide a medium where students and faculty may explore related topics in the field of eating disorders.

*B. Promote awareness about eating disorders and coordinate the annual Eating Disorders Awareness Week.*

1. Provide students with a forum for advocating for individuals with eating disorders and related topics. Implement an annual Eating Disorders Awareness Week for the Center for Psychological Studies and the Nova Southeastern University community.
2. Assist students in educating the community regarding the spectrum of eating disorders.

*C. Provide graduate students with opportunities for involvement in research on eating disorders and related topics.*

1. Create a forum for graduate students to develop and implement original research on eating disorders and related topics.
2. Support graduate students in presenting and publishing original research.

*D. Disseminate up-to-date information on research and best-practices in the field of eating disorders.*

1. Create and facilitate opportunities for students to attend lectures on topics related to eating disorders.

2. Collaborate with eating disorder professionals and treatment centers in training graduate students in the field of eating disorders.

*E. Advocate for greater awareness of the prevalence, consequences, and treatment needs and outcomes of eating disorders.*

1. Collaborate with other professionals, treatment centers, and national organizations in educating the general public about eating disorders.

*F. Collaborate with local eating disorder treatment facilities to provide opportunities for learning and training for psychology students.*

2. Facilitate the development of professional relationships with experts in the field from local treatment facilities and collaborate on continuing education endeavors.
3. Provide students with mentorship and supervisory opportunities

*G. Reduce the stigma surrounding eating disorders.*

1. Educate students, faculty, and the community on the spectrum and consequences of eating disorders.

## SECTION 2. Funding

This association will be funded through monies acquired through fundraising events and CPS-SGA appropriated monies.

## ARTICLE III. IMPLEMENTATION OF OBJECTIVES

### SECTION 1.

*A. Educate students and faculty surrounding the etiology, treatment, diagnoses, and current issues in the field of eating disorders.*

1. Host a brown bag series on the etiology, treatment, diagnoses, and current issues in the field of eating disorders.
2. Implement a series of programs given by eating disorder treatment professionals to address the above mentioned topics.
3. Encourage students, faculty, and the community to attend professional training opportunities and conferences associated with eating disorders.

*B. Promote awareness about eating disorders and coordinate the annual Eating Disorders Awareness Week.*

1. Implement the annual Eating Disorders Awareness Week, providing educational and didactic programming for students, faculty, and the community.
  2. Create ongoing programming efforts to educate students, faculty, and the community about eating disorders.
- B. Provide graduate students with opportunities for involvement in research on eating disorders and related topics.*
1. Hold regular meetings with students and provide information pertaining to current and ongoing research projects in the Center for Psychological Studies and within the greater University community.
  2. Encourage students to share their research interests and provide a medium in which these ideas may be discussed and developed.
  3. Encourage students to pursue their research interests through fostering interdisciplinary collaboration in support of the implementation and dissemination of research findings.
- C. Disseminate up-to-date information on research and best-practices in the field of eating disorders.*
1. Provide lectures, seminars, and workshops educating students on current research and practices in the field of eating disorders. Topics may include:
    - Diagnostic Issues
    - Effective Interventions
    - Treatment Outcomes
    - Ethical practices
    - Eating Disorders and Comorbidity
  2. Generate a monthly newsletter to inform interested students of events, upcoming activities, and other opportunities.
- D. Advocate for greater awareness of the prevalence, consequences, and treatment needs and outcomes of eating disorders.*
1. Collaborate with **Student Organization for the Advocacy of Psychology (SOAP)** in advocacy events regarding eating disorders.
  2. Provide students with opportunities to foster a strong foundation in therapeutic knowledge and to develop a professional identity as an advocate.
  3. Disseminate information regarding advocacy opportunities and legislative/public policy issues at meetings and in the monthly newsletter.

4. Work in conjunction with local, state, and national fundraising efforts that relate to the objectives supported by EDAA.

*E. Collaborate with local eating disorder treatment facilities to provide opportunities for learning and training for psychology students.*

1. Investigate networking avenues for professional growth.
2. Invite students, faculty, and community professionals to speak at monthly meetings and/or to be interviewed for the monthly newsletter.
3. Create professional relationships with local eating disorder treatment facilities and treatment providers.
4. Organize continuing education opportunities and presentations with eating disorder professionals at the Center for Psychological Studies.
5. Provide students the opportunity to establish mentoring relationships with eating disorder professionals, faculty, and alumni.
6. Hold mentoring events in which students, alumni, faculty, and related professionals have the opportunity to share their experiences with current students interested in working with people affected by eating disorders.

*F. Reduce the stigma surrounding eating disorders.*

1. Educate the Nova Southeastern community on the facts associated with eating disorders.
2. Organize presentations by individuals recovering from eating disorders.

## ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION I. EDAA Membership

Membership forms for EDAA will be made available to the entire CPS student body. The forms must be returned to be added to the listserv and to be apprised of meetings and events.

## ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE BOARD

### SECTION I. Selection of Board Members

For the inaugural year, the co-Chairs will be appointed by the advisor(s) and will work collaboratively and share responsibilities as outlined below. In each subsequent year, the Executive Board will be formed through a process in which members interested in leadership roles are nominated by themselves or another EDAA member. Students who choose to accept nomination for an Executive Board position must submit a short essay demonstrating their

commitment to the EDAA objectives, qualifications for the position, and a description of their leadership skills. Nominated students will be oriented to EDAA bylaws, specific role responsibilities, and time commitments. Candidates will be elected should they receive the majority vote of EDAA student members. The current co-Chairs are required to mentor the co-Chairs-Elect to ensure that EDAA's mission is continued and that organization continues to thrive.

#### SECTION II. Selection of Faculty Advisor

The executive board will select a faculty advisor(s) at the time of the creation of the board. If more than one nominee is interested, the board will vote to retain one as Faculty advisor. At least one advisor must be a faculty member within the Center for Psychological Studies. The selection will be based upon the faculty member's expertise in research, service, and advocacy within professional psychology. The advisor will be informed of all ongoing projects of the association during scheduled meetings.

#### SECTION III. Executive Board Meetings

Executive board meetings will be held at a mutually agreed upon time decided at the start of each semester. Meetings will be scheduled monthly for board members and the faculty advisor, and monthly for executive board and current members. All board members are expected to attend both meetings unless granted permission otherwise. In the event of a board member's absence, he or she becomes responsible for disseminating chaired project updates to all board members.

#### SECTION IV. Executive Board Roles

##### 1. *Faculty Advisor(s):*

##### 2. *Co-Chairs*

- a. Organize monthly meetings with faculty advisor.
- b. Organize monthly meetings with Executive Board members.
- c. Organize monthly meetings with the general membership.
- d. Oversee projects and events carried out by chaired positions.
- e. Form committees of the Executive Board as needed.
- f. Arrange for ongoing presentations and brown bag events.
- g. Work with a committee to assist in updating research projects.
- h. Promote and coordinate Eating Disorders Awareness Week.
- i. Relay pertinent information from state and national organizations to the EDAA Executive Board as well as to all interested graduate psychology students via the EDAA newsletter.
- j. Gather information to create informational/advocacy materials.
- k. Coordinate all Executive Board position changes at the beginning of each new academic year and in the event of position vacancies or removals.

##### 3. *Internal Advocate/First Year Representative*

- a. Communicate and collaborate with the Center for Psychological Services' Student Government Association as well as other organizations within the university as necessary.
- b. Send out monthly newsletter to all EDAA members and interested graduate psychology students.
- d. Assist Chair in overseeing projects and events carried out by chaired positions
- e. Assume the duties of the committee chair in his/her absence and shall become committee chair in the event of a vacancy.
- f. Organize regular social and networking events.
- g. Promote organization to other first year students who are interested in the field of eating disorders or a healthy lifestyle
- h. Attend other organization meetings and events to network and promote working together with EDAA

#### 4. *Treasurer*

- a. Complete University required Treasurer and Logistics training.
- b. Coordinate events and projects to raise money for the association.
- c. Coordinate events and projects to raise money and support for charities and other associations in support of eating disorders research and advocacy.
- d. Endorse all approved EDAA expenditures.
- e. Maintain records of all expenditures and complete University required Treasurer and Logistics training.

#### 5. *Secretary*

- a. Communicate with program alumni about program and organization updates, events, and support needed.
- b. Record minutes during meetings and email them to EDAA members.
- d. Maintain active and up-to-date listserv of membership.
- f. Create a database of CPS alumni who are engaged in the research, treatment, and advocacy of eating disorders.
- g. Facilitate the pairing of students with peer mentors and alumni.
- c. Maintain records for all alumni.
- d. Keep accurate contact information for all members.

#### 6. *Research Coordinator*

- a. Coordinate research projects within EDAA
- b Act as a liason between faculty research advisors and EDAA projects
- c. Oversee all research projects which include but are not limited to poster presentations, symposiums, paper presentations, and manuscripts.
- d. Schedule research meetings every semester to update members on any changes and progress
- e. Keep and accurate and up-to-date list on all projects and their progress
- f. Promote and offer research opportunities to the student body of CPS.

#### 7. *Public Relations Chair*

- a. Advertise all meetings, events, and fundraisers throughout CPS
- b. Promote EDAA to all CPS members.
- c. Direct contact with SGA for any events
- d. Responsible for printing all flyers, posters, and updating social media

## ARTICLE VI. RESIGNATIONS, REMOVALS, AND VACANCIES

### SECTION 1. Resignations

An officer may resign from the Executive Board by delivering a written resignation to the Chair, or if the resigning officer is the Chair, then the Chair shall submit the resignation to the co-Chair. That office is thereupon deemed vacant and the selection of board member process, as outline above, will take place.

### SECTION 2. Removal

An officer may be removed from office before his or her term would have otherwise expired by a 2/3 majority of votes cast at an Executive meeting. At least one of the following conditions must be met before said removal can take place:

A. Appropriate grounds leading to the termination of that office due to not fulfilling the duties of his or her respective position, as outlined in the bylaws, and that office becomes vacant upon said removal; or

B. Appropriate grounds leading to the termination of that office due to a blatant disregard of one or more of the provisions of these Bylaws, or of a blatant disregard for said office characterized by a lack of "good faith" effort to carry out the necessary and appropriate duties and responsibilities of said office, will cite that officer for removal, and that office becomes vacant upon said removal.

C. The position of an officer who ceases to be in good standing will automatically become vacant.

### SECTION 3. Filling Vacancies

If an officer's position becomes vacant, the vacancy will be filled within one month of said vacancy by appointment of the Executive Board with the final approval granted by the co-Chairs.

## ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

### SECTION 1. Purpose

Amendments to these Bylaws may be necessary in order to maintain consistent and impartial service to the students of the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University, and to address issues or needs pertinent to the members of EDAA.

## SECTION 2. Process

A. Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by any student and presented to the co-Chairs.

B. To be placed on a ballot for referendum, proposed amendments to these Bylaws must receive one of the following:

1. A two-thirds majority roll-call vote from the EDAA Executive Board, or
2. A signed petition of 15% of enrolled EDAA members.

C. An amendment shall be considered passed by referendum if a simple majority of members vote in the affirmative.

## SECTION 3. Revisions

Revisions to these Bylaws must be made by the co-Chairs and approved by a two-thirds majority vote by the executive board.

## SECTION 4. Ratification

If approved by the referendum, the amendment shall be incorporated into these Bylaws.