

Ethical Issues Identified in Teaching and Research

Group 1

Ethical Problems/Issues in BSE Teaching

Student cheating on homework projects, take-home exams, and in-class exams.

Peer pressure such as giving your work to others.

Bribery

"Heart breaking" stories or excuses used by students to escape responsibility for poor work.

Report and term paper recycling.

Ethical Problems/Issues in BSE Practice/Research.

Time stealing at work.

Covering up the incompetence of a peer.

Trading authorship of papers and research projects to expand one's resume.

Project trading in which researchers move grant funds from the approved area to another area.

Money awarded for teaching projects that is used to fund equipment primarily used in research.

Group II

Academic Honesty

Issues: manipulation of data, fabrication of data, copying, copyrights.

Responsibility with Knowledge

Issues: teaching instead of indoctrinating, exposing students to alternatives, raising and answering questions, helping students to reach conclusions.

Academic Contract

Issues: Keeping office hours, using teaching/faculty position for personal gain, fulfilling committee duties, problems with peer evaluation.

Uses of Authority

Issues: employee-employer trust; student-professor trust; sexual harassment made possible by unequal power relations, the impact of money on integrity and on research projects, and granting undeserved favors, activities that exploit or breakdown trust.

Real World Pressures

Issues: technical, economic, political, regulatory, competition (external and internal), product quality, regulations, deadlines, profits, job security.

Group III

Issues classified as pertaining to teaching (T) or practice (P) (or both):

Stealing Intellectual Property (T, P)

Professional Integrity (P)

Misuse of Contacts and Influences (T, P)

Misuse of Authority (T, P)

Plagiarism (T, P)

Incompetence (P)

Bribes

Risks and Safety. Public Safety (P)

Incorrect representation (P, T)

Relaxation of standards due to economic and time pressures (P, T)

Establishing priorities (T)

Corruption (P)

Contract Awards (P)

International Ethics (P, T)

Civility (P, T)

Group IV:

Moral problems and issues in BSE practice--entry level

The relationship between economic considerations and moral considerations.
(Economics itself as a moral requirement...)

Adapting to authority and to current practices.

Handling mistakes that have to do with time, team, or task pressures--mistakes with harmful consequences to the public (dissent, sense of responsibility).

Codes of ethics: their content, how they are enforced, and limitations. (Targeted to punishment or character development.

The relationship between ethics and the law.

Handling temporary employment: loyalty (low pay/low performance), conflicts, benefits, civic obligation in public and private spheres.

Moral problems and issues in BSE teaching--the teaching perspective

Handling external pressures and realities in the grading of students.

How to use teams in classes to model real-life situations that raise ethical questions and solutions--handling competition, free riding, developing self-supervision.

The professor as role model.

Ethics of class rules--homework rules, exam rules, participation rules, absence rules....

Handling plagiarism.

Ethics in course content, integration with subject matter. (the difficulty of covering material and how to evaluate ethical development in students)

Moral indoctrination and opportunism; how to distinguish moral indoctrination from moral development.