Ethical Decision Making & Ethics in Higher Education

Justin R. Louder, Ed.D.
Director
Office of the Provost – Ethics Center
Justin.louder@ttu.edu
806-742-1505
Short Introductions

Introductions

Who am I?

Who are you?
Overview

University Core Values

University Mission Statement

Ethics Initiatives on Campus

Ethical Decision Making

Academic Integrity

Matador Ethics Video Challenge

So What?
Leadership

In groups of 4-5 answer these questions:

- What is leadership?
- What makes someone a good leader?
Texas Tech’s Core Values

- Texas Tech University is committed to the values of mutual respect; cooperation and communication; creativity and innovation; community service and leadership; pursuit of excellence; public accountability; and diversity.
Texas Tech’s Mission

- As a public research university, Texas Tech advances knowledge through innovative and creative teaching, research, and scholarship. The university is dedicated to student success by preparing learners to be ethical leaders for a diverse and globally competitive workforce. The university is committed to enhancing the cultural and economic development of the state, nation, and world.

- Approved by the Texas Tech University Board of Regents on May 14, 2010
Ethics Initiatives on Campus

- QEP – SACS Accreditation
- 2005-2010
- Ethics Week
- Bus Designs
- Articles in the DT
- Statement of Ethical Principles
Statement of Ethical Principles

Texas Tech University Statement of Ethical Principles

“Do the right thing”

Texas Tech University is committed to the values of mutual respect; cooperation and communication; creativity and innovation; community service and leadership; pursuit of excellence; public accountability; and diversity.

--2005 Texas Tech University Strategic Plan

Mutual Respect

Texas Tech University is committed to being an ethical institution. In recognition of the rights and inherent dignity of all members of the Texas Tech University community, the university is committed to supporting the following principles and to promoting those rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the laws of the United States and the State of Texas, and the policies adopted by the Board of Regents. As members of the Texas Tech community, faculty, students, staff, administration, and all stakeholders accept responsibility for abiding by and promoting the ethical principles of the university described below. Although legal behavior and ethical behavior overlap in many areas, they are quite distinct from each other. While we follow legal requirements, an ethical institution goes beyond them to achieve the following values.

Cooperation and Communication

Texas Tech University is committed to the promotion of professional relationships and open channels of communication among all individuals. The university will publish and disseminate in a timely manner its values, policies, procedures, and regulations, as well as any other information that is necessary to protect and educate all members of our community. We encourage and provide opportunities for the free and open exchange of ideas both inside and outside the classroom. While the free expression of views in orderly ways is encouraged, personal vilification of individuals has no place in the university environment.

Creativity and Innovation

Texas Tech University is committed to ethical institutional programs that meet the teaching, research, and service objectives of each discipline and department, to policies that are consistent with those objectives, and to a working and learning environment that encourages active participation. Such exemplary environments often challenge existing worldviews, requiring trust in the process of discovery and the acceptance of uncertainty and ambiguity within ethical parameters. The university supports all its members in life-long learning—a process that is both challenging and rewarding—and encourages creative and innovative means to achieve this goal through both opportunities and incentives.

Community Service and Leadership

Texas Tech University is committed to ethical leadership practices at all levels and to our tradition of community service, both within the university community and in our relationships with the greater community. We strive for exemplary professional and community service through research, creative works, and service programs that extend beyond the university environment. We strive to provide excellent service in a caring and friendly environment, and encourage such involvement in the community by all faculty, students, staff, and administration.

Pursuit of Excellence

Texas Tech University is committed to achieving excellence in all aspects of our community. We expect this in the expertise and performance of our faculty, staff, and administration, as well as the continuing education of our students. A high standard of professionalism, including opportunities for professional contact and continuous growth, is expected of our faculty, students, staff, and administrators. The university is committed to academic integrity and to the effective and just implementation of a system designed to preserve and protect it. The university intends to be a model of excellence, following best practices in its professional work, displaying the highest standards in its scholarly work, and offering venues to showcase national and international examples of achievement.

Public Accountability

Texas Tech University is committed to transparency in governance, personal responsibility, and both individual and organizational integrity. Being responsible requires us to be thoughtful stewards of our resources—accountable and respectful to ourselves, to each other, and to the publics we serve. A sense of institutional and public responsibility requires careful reflection on one's ethical obligations and the duty to respect commitments and expectations by acknowledging the context and considering the consequences, both intended and unintended, of any course of action. We promptly and openly identify and disclose conflicts of interest on the part of faculty, staff, students, administration, and the institution as a whole, and we take appropriate steps to either eliminate such conflicts or ensure that they do not compromise our procedures and values. When we make promises, we must keep those promises. We strive to do what is honest and ethical even if no one is watching us or compelling us to “do the right thing.”

Diversity

Texas Tech University is committed to the inherent dignity of all individuals and the celebration of diversity. We foster an environment of mutual respect, appreciation, and tolerance for differing values, beliefs, and backgrounds. We encourage the application of ethical practices and policies that ensure that all are welcome on the campus and are extended all of the privileges of academic life. We value the cultural and intellectual diversity of our university because it enriches our lives and the community as a whole, promoting access, equity, and excellence.
Statement of Ethical Principles in the Student Union Building
Academic Integrity
What are these examples of?

- Fabricating a bibliography
- Getting test answers from someone who already took the test
- Copying from another student
- Falsifying lab data
- Falsifying research data
- Using a “paper mill”
- Turning in work done by someone else
- Using a false excuse to obtain an extension
- Using your cell phone/camera as an aid during a test
- Electronic crib notes
What percent of students at TTU report engaging in one of the listed behaviors?

- In 2007: 75% (2007)
- In 2010: 74% (2010)
Is cheating a serious problem at TTU?

**STUDENTS**
- 5.7% Strongly Disagree
- 25.1% Disagree
- 42% Not Sure
- 21% Agree
- 5% Strongly Agree

**FACULTY**
- 2.1% Strongly Disagree
- 10.7% Disagree
- 34.4% Not Sure
- 38.2% Agree
- 14.7% Strongly Agree
Ask the simple question...

Is it worth it?

Integrity Matters. Strive for Honor. Texas Tech University

The Four Key Points of Academic Integrity:

- Being responsible for your own work
- Trust and respect between students, faculty, and staff
- Earning grades honestly
- Academic integrity is the foundation for excellence
Taking responsibility for one’s own work
Being individually accountable
Making a personal choice to abide by the standards of
- Intellectual honesty
- Ethical behavior
- Responsibility
In groups of 4-5 answer these questions:

- How can someone be Responsible?
- What is accountability?
- Why is being accountable important in higher education?
Education Requires...

- A shared effort to achieve learning.
- The exchange of ideas
- **A bond of mutual trust and respect**
  - the collective responsibility of students, faculty and staff
Academic Achievement Includes..

- Scholarship, teaching, and learning
  - These are shared endeavors
- Grades - a device used to quantify the successful knowledge through learning
- Grades must be earned honestly
In the Final Analysis...

- Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers.
- Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement.
- **Academic integrity is the foundation for excellence.**
In your own words, finish this sentence:

Excellence Is.....
Ethical behavior and independent thought are not important for achieving academic success?

- True
- False
Academic Integrity is the foundation of professional and educational careers.
- True
- False

Don’t worry about plagiarism if you use the web; things from the web do not need to be cited.
- True
- False
It is ok to collaborate with other students on academic assignments without permission from your professor.

- True
- False
Matador Ethics Video Challenge
Texas Tech University is committed to transparency in governance, personal responsibility, and both individual and organizational integrity. Being responsible requires us to be thoughtful stewards of our resources—accountable and respectful to ourselves, to each other, and to the publics we serve. A sense of institutional and public responsibility requires careful reflection on one’s ethical obligations and the duty to respect commitments and expectations by acknowledging the context and considering the consequences, both intended and unintended, of any course of action. We promptly and openly identify and discloses conflicts of interest on the part of faculty, staff, students, administration, and the institution as a whole, and we take appropriate steps to either eliminate such conflicts or ensure that they do not compromise our procedures and values. When we make promises, we must keep those promises. We strive to do what is honest and ethical even if no one is watching us or compelling us to “do the right thing.”
That is all it takes to enter the competition.

One 45 second video with you and your friends.

Get Creative

Have Fun

Show off your Talent

Due October 31, 2011
What do you win?

- **Grand Prize:**
  - Lunch with Provost Smith at the end of the semester (Dec 7 or 8)
  - Meet/Greet & Photo with Coach Curry
  - The winning video will be shown at the Oklahoma State Football game (Nov 12)

- **All Entries:**
  - Shown at TAB events, YouTube, Facebook, Ethics Week/Arbor Day
MEVC Entry & More Info

- Matador Ethics Video Challenge website:
  - http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics/matadorchallenge/
- Facebook Page:
- Ethics Center Website:
  - www.ethics.ttu.edu
So What?
How do these four things help with Ethical Decision Making?

- Excellence
- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Respect
Strive for Honor