

Ethics in Public and Nonprofit Organizations (40:834:301) [3 credits]

Course Description

This course covers ethical considerations in public sector and nonprofit organizations, including conflicts of interest, confidentiality, deception, whistleblowing, human rights, and the moral responsibilities of leaders and citizens. The course combines theoretical studies and practical skills to help students gain the necessary understanding of ethical principles, and the tools required to navigate and manage complex ethical situations.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Define ethics and explain its importance to managing government/nonprofit organizations in the public interest
- Describe challenges to ethical behavior, and articulate, apply, and advance a public service perspective in determining prescriptive measures
- Participate in and contribute to developing ethics training programs and other normative organizational policies
- Communicate and interact productively and in culturally responsive ways within diverse teams to promote ethical public service

Requirements

Requirements will vary by instructor and may include:

- Class sessions and discussions: Students will actively engage in class discussions.
- Online discussions will provide a venue to share insights gained from the assigned readings and to ask questions about issues of concern from the readings.
- Student participation will be judged on involvement in Discussion Boards, exercises, and cases. Participation must be relevant to the topics, demonstrate evidence of critical thinking, and help to expand new ideas, factual information, or resources.

Schedule / Outline of Topics

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview
- Week 2: Ethics Training provided by the New Jersey State Ethics Commission
- Week 3: Ethical Development
- Week 4: Administrator Responsibilities
- Week 5: Reinforcing and Enlarging Duty
- Week 6: Code of Ethics
- Week 7: Undermining Duty
- Week 8: Obligations and Responsibilities
- Week 9: Whistle-blowing
- Week 11: External Measures to Promote Ethics
- Week 12: Elevating Ethical Behavior in the Organization
- Week 13: Public Affairs Education and Ethics
- Week 14: Final

*This is a sample syllabus. Students should always obtain syllabi for their current courses from their professors.
(v.10/10/23)*

Texts / Materials / Resources

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

Svara, James H. 2022. The Ethics Primer for Public Administrators in Government and Nonprofit Organizations, 3rd edition. Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett. (ISBN#: 9781284211573)