EBIT COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT

ETHICAL CODE

General
The Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology honours the Code of Ethics of the University of Pretoria to which it is subject. The Faculty is, by virtue of the Code of Ethics of the University of Pretoria, responsible for the involvement and acts of students assigned to the community-based project and also assume responsibility for the students. Therefore students should be fully informed about their involvement and should also give their consent to participate in the task.

The ethical code which students have to adhere to, encompasses the following concerns:

- Responsibility to the community, larger public and environment
- Responsibility towards the institution, staff and fellow students
- Responsibility to the profession

Guidelines
The ethical code for the community-based project should be based on basic morals and values that relate to individuals, groups, animals and plants as integral part of an ecosystem and the environment. Key values can be identified as autonomy, honesty, accountability, respect, and non-judgemental and adding value.

- The community’s autonomy and right to decide to participate must be honoured.
- The community must be fully informed about the nature, purpose and outcomes of the activity.
- The community must be informed about any possible risks as a result of the activities. The students will hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public.
- The planning process and execution of the activities must be done in consultation with the community thus recognising their freedom of speech.
- The community’s dignity must not be violated by propaganda, vindictiveness or deeds or words of racism or sexism.
- Traditions, beliefs, morals and values of the community must be respected at all times.
- Student behaviour, which includes clothing, eating and drinking habits, speech and other habits and practices, must be respectful of the morals and values of the community in which they will serve. Students are therefore expected to conduct themselves honourably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honour, reputation and usefulness of the profession and of the University of Pretoria.
- Students should only perform services in areas of their competence.
Specific codes of conduct

Students shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public

- If students’ judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their University supervisors and such other authority as may be appropriate.
- Students will apply only that engineering theory and practice which are in conformity with applicable standards, as guided by their University supervisors.

Students shall perform services only in their areas of competence

- Students shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical field involved.
- Students shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document not prepared under their direct control.
- Students may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project and sign the documents for the entire project, provided that each segment is signed only by the qualified persons who prepared the segment.

Students shall act as faithful agents of the University

- Students shall disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest, which could influence or appear to influence their judgement or the quality of their services.
- Students shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from any party, for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by the University and all interested parties.
- Students shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable consideration, directly or indirectly, from outside agents in connection with the work for which they are responsible.

Students shall avoid deceptive acts

- Students will not falsify their qualifications or permit misrepresentation of their or their associates’ qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their responsibility in or for the subject manner of prior assignments.

Student obligations

Students shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity

- Students shall acknowledge their errors and shall not distort or alter the facts.
- Students shall advise their supervisor or clients when they believe the project will be unsuccessful.
Students shall not promote their own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession.

Students shall at all times strive to serve the public interest

- Students will seek opportunities to participate in civic affairs; career guidance for youths; and work for the advancement of the safety, health, and well being of their community.
- Students shall not complete plans or specifications that are not in conformity with applicable professional standards. If the client insists on such unprofessional conduct, they shall notify their university supervisor and withdraw from further service on the project.
- Students shall endeavour to extend public knowledge and appreciation of the profession which they represent and its achievements.

Students shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests

- Students shall not accept financial or other considerations, including free specifications, from material or equipment suppliers for specifying their product.
- Students shall not accept commissions or allowances, directly or indirectly, from contractors or other parties dealing with clients or with the University in connection with work for which the student is responsible.

Students shall not attempt to injure maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other persons. Students who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to their University supervisor.

Students shall give credit for work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognise the proprietary interest of others.

- Students shall, whenever possible, name the person or persons who may be individually responsible for designs, inventions, writings, or other accomplishments.
- Students using intellectual property supplied by a client recognise that these remain the property of the client and may not be duplicated by the student for others without express permission.
- Students, before undertaking work for others in connection with which the student may make improvements, plans, designs, inventions, or other records that may justify copyrights or patents, should advise the University supervisor who will enter into a positive agreement regarding ownership.
- Students’ designs, data, records, and notes referring exclusively to the University’s work are the property of the University of Pretoria.