ETHICS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

What is “Ethics across the curriculum”?

Integrating ethics into the curriculum provides an opportunity for formal education in research ethics without the need to create new courses. Most graduate programs are defined in part by a formal, classroom curriculum. While such curricula typically cover knowledge and methods appropriate to the discipline, an opportunity is often missed to address the ethical dimensions of research. Unfortunately, one barrier to doing so is to find meaningful content, effective methods, and the time for teaching. These resources are a useful starting point.

Approaches

1. Standalone ethics lecture
2. Regular, brief ethics reflections throughout course(s)
3. Student assignments to identify ethical issues
4. Methods Courses
5. Principles Courses
6. Themes across concurrent courses
7. Themes through sequential courses

Discipline-Specific Topics and Approaches

1. In your discipline area, what research ethics topics should be included as part of the formal curriculum?
2. What have you seen course instructors do in the past in this regard? What worked and what did not?
3. What are some best practices you would recommend?
Ethics Across the Curriculum Resources

Unfortunately, relatively little has been done to promote the “Ethics Across the Curriculum” model. Part of the challenge is that each course, program, and discipline is so likely to be different from others. However, these resources certainly provide a useful starting point.

Collaborative Development of Ethics Across the Curriculum Resources and Sharing of Best Practices, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez: http://cnx.org/lenses/eactoolkit/eactoolkit

Ethics Across the Curriculum, Illinois Institute of Technology: 
http://ethics.iit.edu/index1.php/Programs/Ethics Across the Curriculum

Five Kinds of Ethics Across the Curriculum, Michael Davis, Illinois Institute of Technology: 

Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum: http://www.rit.edu/cla/ethics/seac

Teaching Ethics Across the Engineering Curriculum, Michael Davis, Illinois Institute of Technology: 
http://www.onlineethics.org/cms/8924.aspx

We are available to provide training on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). See the Training page for details on current resources. We also have consultation services. Experienced research faculty are available for consult on issues or questions regarding RCR or Research Ethics and Compliance services. Please see the Ethics Consultation page for details.