

## **IPRO 301 Spring 2008 Code of Ethics**

Overarching Principle: To conduct a professional multidisciplinary research program to improve the caliber of collegiate student learning.

### **1) Law**

*Canon:* We shall conform to national, state, and local laws in the practices of research and writing.

*Pressure:* Encroaching deadlines and time constraints.

*Risk:* Illegal use of intellectual property of others, such as plagiarism.

*Pressure:* Obtain a “favorable” result of data to secure the approval of peers and superiors.

*Risk:* Use data that only fits wanted results.

*Measurement:* External audits of data to prevent civil or criminal proceedings.

### **2) Contracts**

*Canon:* Respect the contract for grants given by different sponsors.

*Pressure:* Going through personal financial problems.

*Risk:* Using the money from grants to solve personal financial problems.

*Pressure:* Using the grant money for anything other than what the research program calls for.

*Risk:* Falsely documenting when, where, and how the money is being used.

*Measurement:* Make sure the grant is being used for its purpose through audits.

### **3) Professional Codes**

*Canon:* We will abide by the standards applied to research on human subjects and psychological testing, particularly those rules laid out by the American Psychological Association (APA).

*Pressure:* Desire for higher social standing (i.e. from more published papers, positive results, etc).

*Risk:* Falsifying or exaggerating data analysis and positive results.

*Pressure:* Needing more data for analysis and program enhancements.

*Risk:* Use surveys completed without signed consent form.

*Measurement:* Any act that conflicts with the guidelines set out in the APA Ethical Code of Conduct will be considered against the ethical requirements in professional codes. This code can be accessed at <http://www.apa.org/ethics/>.

#### **4) Industry Standards**

*Canon:* Members will follow the standards for conducting and presenting research on human subjects set forth by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP) and Institutional Review Board (IRB).

*Pressure:* The desire to meet the needs of a client in a given amount of time.

*Risk:* Fabricate unreliable information to make the research meet needs.

*Pressure:* Other time commitments causing delay in meeting goals.

*Risk:* Reduce the time commitment for the team by eliminating the weekly individual meetings with the professors, which function as checks on project processes. This violates the Organizational I-3.A, the requirement of maintaining oversight of research being conducted.

*Measurement:* The standards listed by the AAHRPP and the IRB. Found at <http://www.aahrpp.org/www.aspx?PageID=24>.

#### **5) Community**

*Canon:* The team will treat members of the university equally, as well as, fairly collect data and report results accurately.

*Pressure:* To gather a significant amount of data.

*Risk:* To fabricate data or claim someone else's data for oneself.

*Pressure:* To produce a favorable summary of data.

*Risk:* Manipulate the data to show more favorable results.

*Measurement:* Self-examination and peer reviews.

#### **6) Personal Relationships**

*Canon:* Unfairly criticize others so as to make ones work appear superior. All members will hold paramount and not attempt to injure the relationships, reputations, or work of other members.

*Pressure:* Create the most favorable impression of your work as possible.

*Risk:* Manipulation of research and / or data to make oneself look good.

*Risk:* Unfairly criticize other team members as to make one's work appear superior.

*Pressure:* Obtain a research grant or partner.

*Risk:* Mislead officials or potential partners with fabricated data.

*Measurement:* Peer-review sessions and project oversight.

## **7) Spiritual and Moral Values**

*Canon:* The team will respect the personal values of each member.

*Pressure:* Conflicts within the group.

*Risk:* Win an argument or force another member to agree with your point of view.

*Pressure:* Discomfort with members of different faiths or personal convictions.

*Risk:* Press one's own spiritual values on others.

*Measurement:* Oversight by a designated third party.