

Code of Ethics

Illinois Institute of Technology

Having chosen to associate ourselves with IIT, we—trustees, suppliers, students, staff, faculty, donors, alumni, and administrators—have become beneficiaries of what our predecessors made and stewards for our successors. For each of us, the benefit derived from association with IIT depends on the conduct of others. If we each do as we should, all associated with IIT should have reason for satisfaction. If even a few fail, the benefits of association will be less and we will pass to our successors less than we might otherwise have. This code of ethics should help us all conduct ourselves as we should:

1. Academic excellence. Because IIT's reputation depends in large part on the quality of the students it graduates, the research it performs, and the scholarship it publishes, we should help students, faculty, and researchers do the best work they can—and attract to IIT those who can do even better.

2. Academic freedom. We should give every student a fair opportunity to learn, every faculty member a fair opportunity to teach, and every member of the IIT community a fair opportunity to explore, enlarge, and evaluate human invention and knowledge.

3. Academic responsibility. We should maintain appropriate standards of accuracy, reliability, credit, candor, and confidentiality in our own work, whether for publication or internal use in class or office.

4. Human dignity. Because every member of the IIT community deserves the respect due every human person, we should treat every member of the IIT community fairly—avoiding harassment, unjust discrimination, and intimidation in our own conduct and not tolerating them in the conduct of others.

4.1. Mutual respect. Because we recognize the contribution to education, invention, research, scholarship, and governance that differences in perspective, experience, and history offer, we should maintain an environment in which those differences can flourish individually and combine productively in common projects.

4.2. Community and criticism. Because opinions in any healthy community tend to differ, with wisdom never anyone's monopoly, we should consult those whom our decisions may affect; should suggest to appropriate persons opportunities for improving IIT when we think we see them, offering our suggestions in ways unlikely to distract from merit; should accept the dissent of others from our views as an opportunity to learn; and should protect dissenters from mistreatment their dissent seems to have provoked.

5. Institutional responsibility. When holding any office or other position of special trust within IIT, we should always act in good faith, exercising at least as much care as an ordinarily prudent person in like circumstances would when seeking to serve the best interests of IIT.

5.1. Stewardship. We should use IIT resources prudently, taking care to know what laws and other regulations apply.

5.2. Conflict of Interest. When acting on behalf of IIT, we should avoid influences that may undermine the independence of our judgment; or if we cannot avoid such influence, should disclose them to those who should know and seek means to annul their effect.

5.3. Conduct of others. When we observe what seems to be others taking IIT resources for personal use or otherwise misusing them, we should so inform them and, should that not end the apparent misuse, notify an appropriate authority.

6. Personal integrity. If we believe our use of IIT resources morally right but illegal, we should consult appropriate legal authority within IIT to confirm that belief, to explore legal alternatives, and to define legal consequences. If, after consulting appropriate legal authority, we still believe the use of resources morally right but illegal, we may act on that belief, provided we take care that IIT will suffer neither legal liability nor other substantial harm as a result.

7. Civic responsibility. We should conduct IIT activities in ways that at least preserve the quality of life in our neighborhood and should, in addition, as circumstances allow, improve our neighborhood, city, state, country, and world.

8. Work-life concerns. Because everyone associated with IIT should have a life that includes commitments outside IIT, we should conduct IIT activities in ways allowing everyone associated with IIT to honor outside commitments properly without slighting IIT.

9. Sense of pride and ownership. We should give each member of the IIT community—administrators, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students, suppliers, and trustees—opportunities to help improve IIT. We should not take complaints about IIT outside until we have given those at IIT a fair opportunity to resolve them properly.

How to Use this Code

This code consists of a preamble and nine sections. The preamble explains the purpose of the code and provides a principle for applying the general rules in the nine sections to specific situations: *interpret the rules so as to pass on to our successors an IIT at least as good as we found it*. Some sections include subsections. The rules in these subsections provide a *partial* interpretation of the section's general rule. Each subsection is a reminder of a domain of conduct requiring extra caution. This code is not a moral

algorithm, a substitute for deliberation, or an ordinary regulation designed for external enforcement, but a guide to conscientious deliberation. It captures what we now believe is how we would like other members of the IIT community to act—and how we too are willing to act. This code is, of course, subject to revision in light of experience. Indeed, the IIT community should undertake a systematic review of it at least once a decade.

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