

Code of Ethics

Illinois Institute of Technology

Having chosen to associate ourselves with IIT, we—trustees, 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 is intended to 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 shall 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 shall try to 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 shall try to 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 shall try to 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 shall try to 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 shall consult those whom our decisions may affect; shall suggest to appropriate persons opportunities for improving IIT when we think we see them, offering our suggestions in ways unlikely to distract from merit; shall accept the dissent of others from our views as an opportunity to learn; and shall protect dissenters from mistreatment their dissent seems to have provoked.

5. Institutional responsibility. When holding an office or other position of special trust within IIT, we shall 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 shall 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 shall avoid influences that may undermine the independence of our judgment or, failing that, disclose the influences to those who should know and seek means to annul their effect.

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

5.4. Personal integrity. Should we believe our use of IIT resources morally right but illegal, we shall consult an appropriate legal authority within IIT to confirm that belief, to explore legal alternatives, and to define legal consequences. If, after consulting the 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.

6. Civic responsibility. We shall conduct IIT activities in ways that do not reduce the quality of life in our neighborhood and shall, in addition, as circumstances allow, try to improve our neighborhood, city, state, country, and world.

7. Work-life concerns. Because it is good for everyone associated with IIT to have a life that includes commitments outside IIT, we shall try to conduct IIT activities in ways allowing everyone associated with IIT to honor outside commitments properly without slighting IIT.

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

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