



Ethics in Technology Course Syllabus

WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

Ethics in Technology

Hello, and welcome!

Have you ever been a victim of a cyberattack? Or do you worry about someone stealing information about you on social media? Do you wonder if what you read online is true? Many of us face issues like these every day. In this course, you will explore the ethical considerations of using technology. You will study a range of topics that challenge technologists in the field of information ethics. Along the way, you will focus on these four categories: privacy, accuracy, access, and security.

We invite you to take a minute to learn about the course by reviewing the information that follows. This way, you will be better able to understand the expectations of the course as a whole. Then you can determine how to manage your time and efforts as you navigate through it.

You are in the right place. You belong here. You can do this!

Course Description and Competencies

WHAT TO EXPECT

As you work through this course, you will study specific cases related to the ethical use of technology. These will help inform your professional responsibilities as you navigate challenging topics. Such topics include surveillance, social media, hacking, data manipulation, plagiarism, and piracy. They also include artificial intelligence and the digital divide.

This course is broken into four main modules with a total of 11 units. These illustrate how to implement ethical decision-making. They present common ethical issues you may face in your career. And they explain specific actions you can incorporate into your professional behavior.

Throughout the course, you will find a variety of interactive elements. These include knowledge checks to help deepen your understanding of the content. Engaging with these activities reinforces new learning. It also complements the knowledge you bring to this area of study.

This course covers the following competencies:

1. Implement ethical decision-making frameworks in the information age.
2. Describe ethical issues regarding data privacy, accuracy, access, and security.
3. Explain professional ethical codes and their role in guiding professional behavior.
4. Identify interventions for personal bias and related legal concerns.

Assessment

The assessment provides an opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the competencies in this course. You may attempt the assessment two times before additional support is necessary. If you require further attempts, please contact your Course Instructor or Student Experience Specialist.

◆ **1** final exam ◆ **3** competency units

Course Outline

Module	Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:
Module 1: Thought & Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Make ethical decisions in the context of a team or community.B. Distinguish between ethical and unethical behavior.C. Describe common ethical issues.D. Demonstrate confidentiality, integrity, and availability (the CIA triad).
Module 2: Privacy & Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Identify the different ways to securely transmit data.B. Comply with national and international consumer data protection and privacy regulations.
Module 3: Society & Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Implement processes to control access to and protect data.B. Guide your practice and conduct using profession-specific ethics codes.C. Behave in an honest and ethical manner.
Module 4: Future Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Address and mitigate ethical issues in business operations.B. Apply ethical concepts in personal bias.

Technology Requirements

We want you to have the tools to succeed! Since this course includes at least one proctored test, please be sure to have a working microphone, speakers, and an external webcam.

Unfortunately, an internal webcam (built into many laptops) is not acceptable. (Note: The external webcam is required only for exams that have proctors. You do not need one for practice tests and other non-proctored assessments.)

If you haven't already, be sure to download the [Meazure Learning Guardian](#) browser, which you will need for the proctoring system.

For other details about the technology you'll need, review the [Computer System and Technology Requirements](#). If you have questions about your setup, contact support@academy.wgu.edu.

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader DC. If you haven't already, [download this free software](#). You may encounter an interactive form that contains fields that you can select or fill in. Review [how to fill in a PDF form](#).

Key Contacts

Course Connect [for single courses]

Check out this online community to take advantage of course resources, including videos and tips from your educators. You can ask and answer questions, provide feedback on your progress, and interact with fellow students. You will find this platform in the Student Resources section of the course. Log on and do some exploring!

Tutor.com

If you need academic support, don't hesitate to contact [Tutor.com](#). There, you have access to thousands of tutors. And they are available 24/7 from any internet-ready device. You can also benefit from instructional videos, study tools, and other assistance.

Technical Support

If you encounter technical issues, be sure to contact the Help Desk. Just [submit a Support Request for assistance](#).

Program Support

Do you have questions about your account? Student Support has answers. They can help with billing, switching courses, and other requests. You can contact them at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Accommodations

WGU provides compliant and accessible learning experiences. If you require accommodation, please contact us at the start of the course. You can email support@academy.wgu.edu or call (888) 320-0540. We are committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to WGU's services and materials. We strive to use best practices for accessibility. Our goal is to conform to existing U.S. laws. These include the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Our learning management system (LMS) platform is Open edX. Open edX's commitment to accessible content is published on their [Website Accessibility Policy](#).