

Statement of Ethical Conduct

The University has also issued this statement regarding ethics:

Columbia University expects all officers of instruction, administration and research, support staff and students to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct.

Columbia University is one of the world's most important centers of research and at the same time a distinctive and distinguished learning environment for undergraduates and graduate students in many scholarly and professional fields. The University recognizes the importance of its location in New York City and seeks to link its research and teaching to the vast resources of a great metropolis. It seeks to attract a diverse and international faculty and student body, to support research and teaching on global issues, and to create academic relationships with many countries and regions. It expects all areas of the University to advance knowledge and learning at the highest level and to convey the products of its efforts to the world. That commitment upholds the reputation of the University, both locally and globally, and encourages compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Principles:

The basic principles of Ethical Conduct are:

1. Be honest, ethical and truthful;
2. Obey the law. If you are uncertain about what the law or applicable regulations require, seek assistance from your supervisor; and

3. Follow University policies and procedures. Make sure you understand your responsibilities. If you have questions about specific issues, you should ask your supervisor. University policies and procedures may be found on the University website.

Procedures:

1. Report conduct that concerns you. If you believe that an activity may be illegal, unethical or otherwise troubling, you should report it to your supervisor. If your supervisor is involved in the questioned conduct, you should discuss it with the person at the next supervisory level. You could also discuss your concerns with an ombuds officer or report the conduct to the "hotline" or other responsible administrative officer. Reports may be made anonymously. University employees may not retaliate against you for any good faith report of improper activity.
2. An individual's failure to live up to these principles may result in disciplinary action, including suspension, termination, and monetary fines consistent with University policy. For violations of applicable laws, individuals may also face criminal and civil penalties, including monetary penalties.

Additional Administrative Policies

Additional and more detailed and explicit policies may govern particular areas of administration such as human resources, finance, information technology or facilities. It is the responsibility of each person working in those areas to learn and adhere to those policies.