



NICHE
KANYAKUMARI
DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY

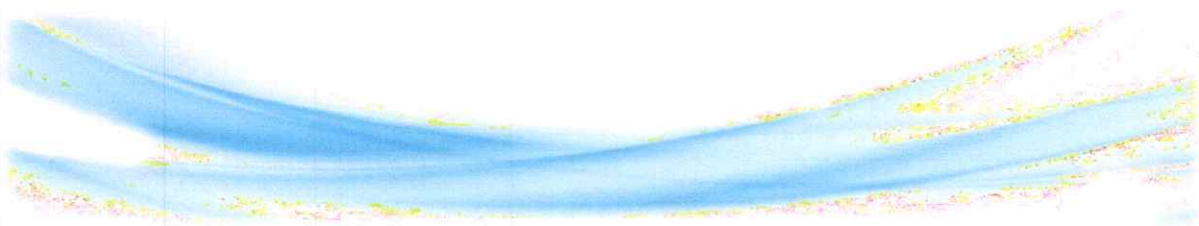
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HANDBOOK ON HUMAN VALUES AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS



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HANDBOOK ON HUMAN VALUES AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

A comprehensive guide on the human values and professional ethics that all NICHE Deemed-to-be University students, faculty, and staff members should adhere to. The purpose is to foster a respectful, ethical, and inclusive campus environment that values diversity, integrity, and excellence in academic and professional pursuits.

Objectives

A handbook on human values and professional ethics is important for students and staff members because it helps to:

- Develop moral awareness: The handbook can help people recognize moral issues like plagiarism and patenting.
- Develop moral reasoning: A handbook can help people understand and assess different views.
- Develop moral coherence: A handbook can help people form consistent viewpoints based on facts.
- Develop moral imagination: A handbook can help people search for alternative responses to issues and be receptive to creative solutions.
- Develop moral communication: The handbook can help people express and support their views to others.
- Develop a set of beliefs, attitudes, and habits: A handbook can help people develop a set of beliefs, attitudes, and habits that they should display concerning morality.
- Build a strong society: A handbook can help NICHE Deemed to be University serve as role models in building a strong society.
- Inculcate human values and professional ethics: A handbook can help HEIs inculcate and proliferate human values and professional ethics within society.

Section 1: Core Human Values

1. Respect and Dignity:

- Treat all individuals—peers, faculty, and staff—with dignity and respect, acknowledging their personal beliefs, culture, and contributions.
- Engage in courteous interactions and avoid language or behaviour that may be perceived as disrespectful, discriminatory, or harassing.

2. Integrity and Honesty:

- Embrace honesty in all academic work, personal conduct, and interpersonal relationships. Academic honesty includes avoiding plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of dishonesty.
- Encourage transparency and authenticity in all interactions and recognize the importance of personal and academic integrity.

3. Accountability and Responsibility:

- Take responsibility for personal actions and their impact on others. This includes punctuality, adhering to deadlines, and maintaining ethical standards in academic and extracurricular activities.
- Be proactive in fulfilling academic, social, and institutional responsibilities, recognizing that each action reflects the values of NICHE.

4. Empathy and Compassion:

- Practice understanding and kindness toward others, especially those facing difficulties or challenges. Foster a culture of empathy where everyone supports each other's emotional well-being.
- Engage in active listening and encourage open communication, promoting a supportive and inclusive campus environment.

5. Fairness and Justice:

- Maintain fairness in evaluation, treatment, and decision-making. This includes avoiding favouritism, biases, and prejudices in academic, social, and professional interactions.
- Advocate for equal opportunities and stand against any form of discrimination or unfair treatment.

Section 2: Professional Ethics

1. Academic Integrity:

- **For Students:** Submit original work, provide citations where needed, and refrain from dishonest academic practices like cheating or plagiarism.
- **For Faculty:** Ensure fairness in grading, provide constructive feedback, and adhere to confidentiality and transparency in academic matters.

- **For Staff:** Uphold accuracy and confidentiality in handling student records and maintain professional standards in administrative duties.

2. Responsibility Toward the University:

- Show commitment to NICHE's mission, vision, and values. Participate actively in the university's growth by volunteering for initiatives, maintaining cleanliness on campus, and respecting university property.
- Encourage collaboration and constructive criticism that contributes to a better learning environment.

3. Confidentiality and Privacy:

- **For Faculty and Staff:** Maintain confidentiality of students' academic records, personal information, and any sensitive information discussed in confidence.
- **For Students:** Respect the privacy of peers and faculty, especially concerning personal matters and academic records.

4. Respect for Intellectual Property:

- Acknowledge and give credit to the ideas, creations, and research of others. For both students and faculty, using someone else's work without proper citation is unethical and against NICHE's standards.

5. Non-Discrimination and Inclusiveness:

- Foster a learning and working environment free from discrimination based on race, gender, religion, caste, disability, or any other personal attribute.
- Create an inclusive atmosphere where diversity is celebrated and individuals feel safe to express themselves.

6. Environmental Responsibility:

- Embrace practices that reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote environmental sustainability on campus.
- Participate in or support initiatives related to environmental awareness, such as recycling programs and energy-saving measures.

Section 3: Code of Conduct for Students

1. Academic Conduct:

- Attend all classes regularly and actively participate in academic discussions.
- Complete assignments, exams, and projects with integrity, upholding NICHE's standards of academic excellence.

2. Interpersonal Conduct:

- Be respectful in verbal and digital communications with peers, faculty, and staff members.
- Resolve conflicts respectfully, seek guidance from mentors if needed, and avoid engaging in physical or verbal altercations.

3. Use of University Resources:

- Use university facilities (labs, library, internet, etc.) responsibly and for academic purposes only.
- Report any damages to property promptly and avoid any misuse of resources that may inconvenience others.

4. Dress Code:

- Follow the university's dress code policy, dressing in a manner that reflects professionalism and respect for the educational environment.

Section 4: Code of Conduct for Faculty and Staff

1. Professional Excellence and Growth:

- Engage in continuous learning, research, and professional development to provide the highest quality of education.
- Maintain fairness in all academic assessments and be approachable for student queries and discussions.

2. Guidance and Mentorship:

- Support students' academic growth by offering constructive feedback, encouragement, and assistance.
- Act as role models of ethical conduct and academic integrity, helping students navigate ethical dilemmas.

3. Collaboration with Peers:

- Foster a spirit of teamwork and cooperation with colleagues, contributing positively to the university's culture.
- Share knowledge, ideas, and resources to promote a collaborative and innovative academic environment.

4. Conflict of Interest:

- Avoid situations where personal interests may interfere with professional responsibilities.
- Disclose and manage any potential conflicts to maintain trust and integrity in professional duties.

Section 5: Implementation and Enforcement

1. Orientation and Training:

- New students and staff members will attend a values and ethics orientation program to understand NICHE's expectations.
- Annual workshops and seminars will reinforce human values and ethics principles, providing an opportunity for discussion and reinforcement.

2. Reporting and Addressing Violations:

- Establish a confidential reporting mechanism for students, faculty, and staff to report any unethical or inappropriate conduct.
- The committee will review violations, ensuring a fair and transparent process. Appropriate actions will be taken in alignment with NICHE's disciplinary policies.

3. Continuous Improvement:

- Regularly review and update the code of conduct, incorporating feedback from the university community.
- Encourage feedback on the handbook to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with evolving university goals.

Roles and Responsibilities of Departments

1. Aeronautical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Aircraft Maintenance Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Safety and Integrity:** Prioritize safety in all academic and practical settings and avoid compromises on safety standards.
2. **Commitment to Excellence:** Uphold high standards in design, testing, and application, striving for precision.
3. **Respect for the Environment:** Promote eco-friendly practices in projects, acknowledging the environmental impact of aviation.

Professional Ethics

1. **Accuracy in Research:** Ensure that data, testing, and results are meticulously documented and reported.
2. **Adherence to Protocols:** Follow industry-standard safety protocols in labs and projects.
3. **Innovation with Responsibility:** Ensure that technological advancements respect safety and ethical standards.

2. Allied Health Science, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

Core Human Values

1. **Compassion and Respect for Patients:** Treat all patients with empathy and respect, recognizing their dignity.
2. **Confidentiality:** Protect patient information, following strict privacy guidelines.
3. **Commitment to Public Health:** Engage in practices that prioritize the health and safety of individuals and communities.

Professional Ethics

1. **Ethical Treatment Standards:** Adhere to evidence-based practices and ethical guidelines in patient care.
2. **Transparency in Reporting:** Document patient interactions and treatment honestly.

3. **Continuous Learning:** Keep up-to-date with advancements to provide quality healthcare.

3. Automobile Engineering, Mechanical Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Responsibility in Engineering:** Recognize the societal impact of mechanical and automotive innovations.
2. **Environmental Stewardship:** Promote sustainable and eco-friendly designs.
3. **Collaboration:** Work respectfully within teams to ensure shared responsibility in projects.

Professional Ethics

1. **Ethical Design and Testing:** Adhere to rigorous testing standards and avoid shortcuts that compromise safety.
2. **Accountability for Resources:** Use lab and material resources responsibly, minimizing waste.
3. **Adherence to Regulations:** Follow industry regulations on vehicle safety and environmental standards.

4. Biomedical Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Commitment to Human Welfare:** Design technology that serves public health and medical needs.
2. **Patient-Centric Innovation:** Ensure that biomedical advancements respect patient safety and dignity.
3. **Ethical Research Practices:** Uphold integrity in all biomedical research activities.

Professional Ethics

1. **Data Integrity:** Record and report clinical and laboratory data honestly.
2. **Patient Privacy:** Handle sensitive patient data responsibly, ensuring strict confidentiality.
3. **Interdisciplinary Respect:** Collaborate respectfully with healthcare providers, honoring their expertise.

5. Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics

Core Human Values

1. **Commitment to Truth in Science:** Pursue research and knowledge truthfully.
2. **Environmental Responsibility:** Practice eco-friendly lab protocols and waste management.

3. **Integrity in Discovery:** Uphold honesty in documenting experimental results.

Professional Ethics

1. **Transparency in Data:** Avoid data fabrication or falsification.
2. **Respect for Intellectual Property:** Credit sources accurately in research publications.
3. **Safety Standards in Labs:** Follow proper safety protocols to ensure personal and environmental safety.

6. Civil Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Public Safety Priority:** Design and construct structures that prioritize public well-being.
2. **Sustainability and Environmental Respect:** Engage in environmentally responsible engineering.
3. **Community Impact Awareness:** Recognize the societal impact of civil projects.

Professional Ethics

1. **Ethical Project Management:** Avoid shortcuts that could compromise project integrity.
2. **Transparency with Stakeholders:** Provide honest assessments of project risks and costs.
3. **Fair Treatment of Labor:** Ensure fair wages and safe conditions for all workers involved.

7. Computer Science and Engineering, Software Engineering, Information Technology

Core Human Values

1. **Privacy and Confidentiality:** Uphold privacy in handling data, respecting users' rights.
2. **Commitment to Truth:** Ensure accuracy in data processing, representation, and reporting.
3. **Inclusivity:** Promote inclusivity in software design, ensuring accessibility for all users.

Professional Ethics

1. **Data Security and Privacy:** Implement and uphold data protection standards.
2. **Respect for Intellectual Property:** Avoid software piracy and acknowledge others' contributions.
3. **Bias-Free Programming:** Strive to eliminate bias in algorithms and programs.

8. Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Accountability in Technology:** Recognize the societal impact of electronic innovations.
2. **Environmental Responsibility:** Prioritize energy efficiency in design and projects.
3. **Integrity in Innovation:** Maintain honesty in all research and design phases.

Professional Ethics

1. **Accurate Reporting:** Avoid data manipulation in experiments and projects.
2. **Respect for User Privacy:** Protect users' rights to privacy in any digital application.
3. **Safe Design Principles:** Ensure electronic product development and deployment safety.

9. English

Core Human Values

1. **Commitment to Diversity:** Respect diverse voices and perspectives in literature and discourse.
2. **Intellectual Honesty:** Present ideas and interpretations transparently, crediting sources.
3. **Empathy in Communication:** Approach communication with empathy and respect.

Professional Ethics

1. **Avoiding Plagiarism:** Adhere strictly to academic integrity in all written work.
2. **Encouraging Open Discourse:** Foster an environment of respectful discussion and debate.
3. **Upholding Truth in Research:** Maintain accuracy and credibility in all literary and linguistic analyses.

10. Fire and Safety Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Commitment to Public Safety:** Prioritize public welfare and safety above all else.
2. **Responsibility in Emergency Preparedness:** Act responsibly in emergencies to protect lives and assets.
3. **Continuous Learning:** Engage in lifelong learning to improve response and prevention skills.

Professional Ethics

1. **Vigilance and Preparedness:** Adhere to safety protocols and stay informed about the latest practices.

2. **Accountability in Crisis Situations:** Take full responsibility for actions during emergencies.
3. **Transparency in Reporting:** Provide accurate, honest assessments and incident reports.

11. Management Studies

Core Human Values

1. **Ethical Leadership:** Model integrity, accountability, and respect in all management activities.
2. **Transparency and Fairness:** Make decisions transparently and treat all stakeholders fairly.
3. **Social Responsibility:** Consider the social impact of business decisions.

Professional Ethics

1. **Confidentiality in Business:** Maintain confidentiality in handling sensitive business information.
2. **Honesty in Communication:** Be transparent in financial reporting and management practices.
3. **Equal Opportunity:** Ensure fair recruitment, promotion, and evaluation treatment.

12. Marine Engineering

Core Human Values

1. **Commitment to Environmental Protection:** Follow practices that protect marine ecosystems.
2. **Safety in Operations:** Prioritize safety on and off vessels.
3. **Respect for Marine Laws:** Adhere to maritime laws and regulations.

Professional Ethics

1. **Accountability in Navigation and Maintenance:** Take responsibility for ship safety and proper maintenance.
2. **Transparency in Reporting:** Accurately document all ship maintenance and repairs.
3. **Ethical Waste Disposal:** Follow environmentally responsible disposal methods.

13. Multimedia and Film Technology

Core Human Values

1. **Respect for Diversity and Representation:** Promote diversity in multimedia projects.
2. **Integrity in Storytelling:** Present truthful representations without sensationalism.
3. **Sensitivity to Cultural Contexts:** Respect cultural differences in content creation.

Professional Ethics

1. **Respect for Intellectual Property:** Avoid unauthorized use of copyrighted content.
2. **Accuracy in Representation:** Ensure fair portrayal of individuals and communities.
3. **Avoiding Sensationalism:** Refrain from manipulating media for sensationalism.

14. Nanotechnology (DST FIST Sponsored)

Core Human Values

1. **Commitment to Safety:** Prioritize lab safety in all nanotech research.
2. **Integrity in Research:** Report data honestly and respect the field's scientific rigour.
3. **Respect for the Environment:** Engage in eco-friendly practices in nanotechnology development.

Professional Ethics

1. **Data Accuracy and Integrity:** Avoid data manipulation and follow ethical research practices.
2. **Confidentiality in Research:** Safeguard proprietary and sensitive data.
3. **Ethical Use of Technology:** Consider nanotechnology's social and environmental impacts.



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