

Appendix H
Code of Faculty Ethics
Preamble

To be ethical requires thoughtful effort to distinguish right from wrong choices in our personal and professional lives. A code of professional ethics is not a set of absolute laws, but rather a guide to making better choices, individually and collectively.

Many agree that the underlying principle that guides faculty ethics is a search for truth. The paramount ethical responsibility of an academic community is to create an environment that supports the free and enthusiastic search for truth. At times, that search might appear to violate cultural, societal, or political norms. Faculty members must defend academic freedom and help the community understand the special role a university plays in society.

The search for truth employs intuition, creativity, and a variety of methods. The validity of the findings, however, must ultimately be scrutinized through the twin lenses of evidence and reason.

Our ethical mission is:

honesty and integrity in instruction
truth in discovery
trustworthiness and, dedication in service
and professionalism within the academy

Honesty Integrity in Instruction:

Faculty members:

- improve themselves to become more effective teachers and scholars; promote truth and honesty in learning;
- facilitate the learning environment and serve as ethical role models;
- assist their students to develop intellectually and ethically
- are sensitive to students' needs, but are prohibited from entering into relationships such as intimate physical, emotional, sexual, or any other relationships with any undergraduate UOG students and/or any graduate students directly under their supervision;
- encourage their students to engage in the free and open pursuit of learning and protect students' academic freedom;
- promote and maintain healthy, supportive, productive relationships with students;
- treat students fairly and evaluate them based solely on documented performance in the course;
- respect and maintain confidentiality (with established legal exceptions) of information of a personal nature, e.g. students' grades, medical condition, family issues, and so on;
- promote instruction in professional ethics within their respective disciplines and throughout the professorate

Truth in Discovery:

Faculty members:

- exercise self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge;
- must have ethical courage to advocate against acts of injustice;
- communicate the truth as they understand it; without bias or apparent conflict of interest;
- promote freedom of inquiry and the dissemination of knowledge;
- observe accepted professional research guidelines established by the University of Guam and one's profession.

Trustworthiness and Dedication in Service:

Faculty members:

- hold the public trust; so they must be trustworthy;
- act as ethical role models for the community;
- promote conditions of free inquiry and further public understanding of academic freedom;
- must be dedicated to serving individuals and the community;
- intend to benefit the community and university through service;
- provide opportunities for the community to learn about ethics in general, and professional and applied ethics in particular.

Professionalism within the Academy:

Faculty members:

- promote and maintain healthy, supportive, productive relationships with colleagues;
- have a special responsibility to practice the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline;
- promote academic freedom, maintaining their right to criticize and seek revision;
- honor the trust as advisers, and avoiding the manipulation of students, placing students' best interests above any other;
- have an obligation to participate actively in shared governance