

Notre Dame Computer Science and Engineering Student Code of Ethics

Preamble

This code of ethics was written by Dylan Zaragoza for CSE 40175: Ethical and Professional Issues at the University of Notre Dame. This paper was written to fulfill the requirement for Project 1: Ethics in which students may write a Code of Ethics for Notre Dame Computer Science and Engineering students. The format of this document was closely modeled after the Association for Computing Machinery's (ACM) Code of Ethics (available at <https://www.acm.org/about-acm/acm-code-of-ethics-and-professional-conduct>).

The Notre Dame Computer Science and Engineering Student Code of Ethics is broken into 4 sections: general student imperatives, more specific engineering responsibilities, career leadership imperatives, and compliance with the code. Similarly to the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, it is understood that some words and phrases are subject to varying interpretations and that in some situations several ethical principles may conflict. At that time we would urge students to give thoughtful consideration to the code's underlying principles, rather than reliance on detailed regulations.

1. GENERAL STUDENT IMPERATIVES.

As a Notre Dame student I will

1.1 Perform academically to the best of my abilities.

Students that have been accepted into the Notre Dame community represent great potential and, as such, they have a responsibility to reflect this potential in their grades and coursework. Students should put forth their best and honest effort in their respective academic areas of study.

1.2 Not engage in plagiarism or other academic dishonesties.

Honesty and integrity are valued traditions at Notre Dame, hence plagiarism and other academic dishonesties will not be tolerated by the university. In addition, students must report any personal or witnessed violations of academic honesty to the relevant instructor.

Please refer to the Undergraduate Student Academic Code of Honor for policy and consequences. (<https://honorcode.nd.edu/the-honor-code/>)

1.3 Avoid causing harm to myself, others, or university property.

Outside of class, students are expected to respect the privacy and of others and the condition of university property. Injuries should be reported to University Health Services (<http://uhs.nd.edu/>) located in Saint Liam Hall.

1.4 Respect the curriculum and instructions of my professors.

Students should adhere to the course curriculum outlined by their professors and department (minus exceptional cases with express permission). Coursework assigned individually should be completed individually while assignments given to a group should be completed as a group. Any questions about coursework should be asked to the instructor.

1.5 Do my best to make full use of the resources the university provides.

Students have a duty to themselves to make the most of the resources the university provides. This does not only involve schoolwork (office hours), but other resources provided (such as career fairs) to advance their standings as computer scientists and engineers.

2. MORE SPECIFIC ENGINEERING RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Notre Dame Computer Science and Engineering student I will

2.1 Improve my understanding of computing, its ethics, and its consequences.

As computer scientists and engineers, students have a duty to learn, acknowledge, and appreciate the history of computing and the consequences of their profession. In the course of their studies, students should come to appreciate the logical problems computing has triumphed as well as the ethical questions it has yet to answer.

2.2 Submit original code of my own writing and design.

A computer science education at Notre Dame is more than just building machines and writing software, it also involves teaching students how to think like professionals. Developing coding skill requires individual effort in order to produce unique solutions. As a

result, submitted code must be (mostly) of a student's own original writing and design (see 2.3 for citing intellectual sources).

2.3 Correctly cite intellectual sources for code when necessary.

As engineering students there are many online resources that can be consulted in order to complete assignments. If code sections from another author are directly used in a student's work, respective credit should be given and the information should be presented in such a way to prevent violating the plagiarism and academic dishonesty code 1.2.

3. CAREER LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVES

As a Notre Dame student and future member of the computing community I will

3.1 Represent Notre Dame with integrity.

Graduates represent the University of Notre Dame as honored alumni in both their professional and personal lives. They are encouraged to remember what they learned from the university, both academically and ethically, and act responsibly, knowing they will be representing the rest of the Notre Dame community.

3.2 Promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

The University of Notre Dame advocates diversity and inclusion in its communities. This is evident in its history as an originally all-male university. Graduated computer science students are encouraged to carry these practices into their future professional lives as well as advocate them in others.

3.4 Not participate in black hat hacking.

Students learn many skills while studying at the university, but it is up to them to decide how to use these skills when they enter the wider world. Notre Dame as an institution teaches these skills to improve the world through computing, and participating in black hat hacking is a destructive activity that is not supported by this code of ethics.

3.4 Contribute my own unique ideas and perspective to the field of computing.

Students graduating from the University of Notre Dame are fully capable of leadership positions in the computer science industry. It

is each graduate's responsibility to apply their own unique ideas and perspectives to advance the field of computing.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE

As a Notre Dame student I will

4.1 Uphold and promote the principles of this code.

As quoted from the ACM Code of Ethics: "The future of the computing profession depends on both technical and ethical excellence." Students must follow and encourage other students to follow the principles outlined by this code of ethics.

4.2 Treat violations of this code as inconsistent with Notre Dame standards.

If students violate this code, witness violations of this code, or have reason to suspect violation(s) of this code have occurred, they should notify their instructors, rector, police, or other persons of ethical integrity.