



Tshwane University
of Technology

We empower people

#fromGood2Great

Code of Ethics (Students)



Type of document	Code
Purpose	To promote and uphold ethical conduct in all interactions between TUT and its students by establishing clear behavioural standards and providing guidance to support ethical decision making.
Date of approval	24 April 2026
Previous revisions	None
Owner	TUT Council
Curator	Registrar
Approved by	TUT Council

PREAMBLE

Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) seeks to promote the highest standards of technical, scientific, scholarly and professional integrity. By so doing it takes into consideration the ethical, social and environmental concerns arising from its activities.

The University promotes an ethical culture. As such, it intends to ensure that all its activities have positive impact on all its stakeholders. The aim, therefore, is to strive to promote and continuously improve the quality of university life for students in particular.

The University aspires to:

- be a university of choice for students;
- be an employer of choice for employees;
- always apply ethical standards with integrity, resilience, stewardship, accountability, excellence and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) across all activities;
- consider the local and regional community and, in so doing, be a model corporate citizen; and
- only undertake activities that are environmentally sustainable and conform to high standards of environmental consideration.

APPLICATION

This Code applies to all TUT students.

CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	2
APPLICATION	2
1. AIMS OF CODE OF ETHICS FOR STUDENTS.....	4
2. DEFINITIONS.....	4
3. ETHICS AND TUT VALUES	5
3.1 Resilience.....	5
3.2 Stewardship.....	5
3.3 Accountability	6
3.4 Excellence	8
3.5 Diversity	8
4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST	8
5. SETTING THE TONE FOR AN ETHICAL CULTURE	9
5.1 Responsibilities of the Student Leadership and Structures.....	9
5.2 Ethics Committee	10
5.3 How to Report Ethical Concerns or Violations.....	10
6. BUILDING AN ETHICAL CULTURE	10
7. IMPLEMENTATION	11
8. REVISION OF THE CODE	11

1. AIMS OF CODE OF ETHICS FOR STUDENTS

- 1.1 The Code of Ethics for Students (the Code) provides a framework that outlines the expected ethical behaviour and decision making about ethical issues for students within the University. It complements and aligns itself with the University's other elements of strategic intent, policies and procedures. The Code also serves as a foundation for ethical conduct, supporting positive academic experience and preparing students for responsible citizenship and professional life.
- 1.2 Ethical behavioural concerns encompass all aspects of University life ranging from management of the University to engaging with students at the University. The University thereby endorses its key values of integrity, resilience, care, respect, stewardship, accountability, excellence and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- 1.3 These values apply to every aspect of University life by students and in their quest to create and embrace a culture of academic freedom to achieve personal and educational goals.

2. DEFINITIONS

Conflict of Interest (COI) - means a situation in which someone has competing professional or personal interests; such competing interests can make it difficult to fulfill his or her duties impartially;

Council - means the council contemplated in paragraph 7 of the Institutional Statue of Tshwane University of Technology;

Employee - means any person excluding independent contractors, who works for the University and who receives, or is entitled to receive, any remuneration from the University;

Ethics - means the examination of rational justification for our moral judgments; it studies what is morally right or wrong, just or unjust. In a broader sense, ethics reflects on human beings and their interaction with nature and with other humans, on freedom, on responsibility and on justice;

Ethics Committee (EC) - means a structure that provides oversight and leadership on ethics management in the University;

Student - means any person registered to study at TUT;

Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) - means the Tshwane University of Technology, as duly constituted in terms of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended; and

University - means the Tshwane University of Technology, as duly constituted in terms of the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No. 101 of 1997), as amended.

3. ETHICS AND TUT VALUES

3.1 Resilience

We proactively adapt and recover effectively to ensure our long-term success and continued impact in an ever-changing world. As a University value, resilience reflects our dedication to moral strength, adaptability and perseverance among our students.

Students operate in a complex and evolving academic, social and global environment. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that they maintain strong ethical behaviour while adapting to change, overcoming challenges, and sustaining progress in their academic and personal development, even in difficult circumstances such as academic pressure, personal hardship, social injustice or external societal pressures.

To strengthen resilience, the University must equip students not only with the academic knowledge and skills required for their fields of study but also with the emotional intelligence, problem-solving abilities, and support systems necessary to navigate challenges in both their academic and personal lives. By fostering these capabilities, the University empowers students to persist through adversity, grow from their experiences, and contribute meaningfully to their communities and the broader society.

3.2 Stewardship

We believe that all students who have chosen our University for their learning experience deserve to learn in an environment where individuals are treated with dignity and respect. The University is committed to providing a respectful learning

environment that is free of discrimination, abusive, offensive and harassing behaviour.

Students who feel they are being mistreated or discriminated against in any way, whether by an employee of the University or another student, are encouraged to report the incident to their respective faculties or the Ethics Hotline (see Section 5.3).

The ethical considerations of students include treating classmates and employees with dignity; care and respect for University facilities, equipment and resources; help maintain a clean, safe and inclusive environment for all; and refrain from bullying, harassment, discrimination or any form of harm.

3.3 Accountability

Students shall be ethically responsible for their actions and consequences and always act in the best interest of the University. Faculties have the responsibility for demonstrating, through their actions, the importance of ethics and upholding the values of the University. Ethical behaviour does not just happen, it is the product of clear and direct communication of behavioural expectations, modelled from the top and demonstrated by example. Students' actions are what matters.

Students are accountable for the following:

3.3.1 Student Rules, Relevant Legislations, Internal Standards, Guidelines and Codes.

Accountability is linked to the value of integrity. It begins with complying with student rules, laws and regulations, as well as internal standards, codes, processes and procedures set by the University. This requires all students to understand the requirements that apply to their specific roles and responsibilities. If a student is unsure of whether a contemplated action is permitted by law or rules of the University, they should seek advice from the resource expert within their faculties. Students should take responsibility for preventing violations of laws, student rules and regulations, and for speaking up when they see possible violations.

The success of the University in achieving its goals as a successful teaching and learning institution is dependent on displaying academic and personal integrity through professional and ethical conduct. Therefore, we encourage and

defend intellectual honesty by not committing plagiarism, examination cheating or any form of academic dishonesty.

Students should uphold high standards of personal behaviour both on and off campus and make ethical choices, even when it is difficult. When considering any action, students should determine whether the environment created within the University will support the following: Will this build trust and credibility for our University? Will it help to create a credible reputation for our University that earns respect from our stakeholders, partners, and the broader society in which it operates? Can we follow through on our commitments? If we can answer “yes” to these questions, our integrity is intact. We must consciously continue to strive to meet the value of integrity.

Having integrity also means everyone should feel comfortable speaking their mind, particularly to ethics concerns. The University commits to creating an open and supportive environment where students feel comfortable raising ethical concerns. The University will investigate all reported instances of questionable or unethical behaviour. In every instance where improper behaviour is found to have occurred, the University will take appropriate action. There will be no retaliation against students who raise ethical concerns in good faith.

3.3.2 Proprietary Information

Students have a duty to respect the propriety rights of other learning institutions and shall not engage in unauthorised use, copy, distribute or alter software or other intellectual property.

3.3.3 Health and Safety

The University is dedicated to maintaining a healthy and safe environment. A Policy on Health and Safety is available upon request through the Office of the Registrar.

3.3.4 Teaching and Learning and Research Undertaken by the University

Students should ensure the originality of their academic work, including research, obtain ethical approval for their research and protect all involved in research. The University has a policy to independently evaluate, approve and monitor research that involves humans, animals and the environment within a framework of generally accepted research ethics guidelines. This policy is available on request through the Office of the Registrar.

3.3.5 Greening the Environment and Climate Change

Environment sustainability and climate change are great challenges facing humankind in the twenty-first century, they are a major focus of scientific research and teaching activities and a key responsibility for students at the University.

Climate change is said to be a “unique ethical problem”. Our moral accountability flows directly from our collective responsibility to take whatever actions we are advised or required to do to mitigate the risks that will cause harm to future generations.

Our moral accountability flows directly to our political and collective responsibility. We, therefore, look to our own efforts to limit or remove any harmful actions that are known to contribute to climate change risks and risks associated with sustaining a green environment.

3.4 Excellence

In our commitment to move from ‘Good to Great,’ we foster world-class teaching, learning and research, and a high-performance culture. The University encourages students to demonstrate academic excellence by producing high quality assignments and research and developing critical thinking skills.

Ethics can be viewed as a predictor of excellence. Therefore, students should constantly be part of the University's innovation, problem solving and aim to improve themselves and others.

3.5 Diversity

Diversity allows for new perspectives, equity creates a fair environment and can help to provide opportunities for individuals who need it, and inclusion helps students feel a sense of belonging and understanding. The ethical consideration for students includes respecting differences in opinion, culture, identity and background.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of interest can impair our ability to make objective and fair decisions relative to students. Students owe a duty to

the University to advance its legitimate interests when the opportunity to do so arises.

Determining whether a conflict of interest exists is not always easy. Students with conflict of interest questions should seek advice from management. Before engaging in any activity, transaction or relationship that might give rise to a conflict of interest, students are encouraged to seek review of the situation.

Below are examples of situations that may constitute conflicts of interest for students:

- Making or influencing strategic decisions that results in personal gain or benefit friends.
- Using University resources, including vehicles, equipment, facilities, or other assets, for personal purposes without prior authorisation.
- Engaging in a romantic or intimate relationship with a lecturer, faculty member or an employee who has authority to grade, supervise, or assesses the student's academic work.
- Interfering with, obstructing, or exerting undue influence over a decision-making process to advance personal interest or secure an unfair advantage.

5. SETTING THE TONE FOR AN ETHICAL CULTURE

5.1 Responsibilities of the Student Leadership and Structures

Student leadership and structures have the added responsibility of demonstrating, through their actions, the importance of this Code. In any organisation, ethical behaviour does not simply happen; it is the product of clear and direct communication of behavioural expectations, modelled from the top and demonstrated by example.

To make our Code work, the University's management, designated personnel and structures must be responsible for promptly addressing ethical questions or concerns raised by students, and for taking the appropriate steps to deal with such issues. Those at the helm should not consider students' ethics concerns as threats or challenges to their authority, but rather as another encouraged form of organisational communication. At our University, we want the ethics dialogue to become a natural part of the University's daily life for both students, employees and management.

5.2 Ethics Committee

Where necessary, the University may establish an Ethics Committee which shall serve as an oversight body providing a connection between practice and the Executive Management of the University. The purpose of the Ethics Committee is to provide oversight and leadership on ethics management for the University employees and students. The Ethics Committee shall also consider and advise on ethical matters referred to by employees and students, and on conflicts of interest, if required.

5.3 How to Report Ethical Concerns or Violations



For reporting violations or concerns, contact the Ethics Hotline at:

- Ethics Hotline Contact Information:
- Toll-Free Number: 0800 006 924
- Email Address: tut@connect.ethicsuite.com
- Url: <https://connect.ethicsuite.com/tut>

Students are encouraged to report suspected violations to their faculties or the ethics hotline. We maintain an anonymous ethics hotline, which supports the anonymity of the whistleblower.

6. BUILDING AN ETHICAL CULTURE

At times, we are all faced with decisions we would rather not have to make and issues we would prefer to avoid. Sometimes, we hope that if we avoid confronting a problem, it will simply go away.

At our University, we must have the courage to tackle tough decisions and make difficult choices, secure in the knowledge that the University is committed to doing the right thing. At times, this will mean doing more than simply what the law requires. Merely because we can pursue a course of action does not mean we should do so. Although the University's guiding principles cannot address every issue or provide answers to every ethical dilemma, we can define the spirit in

which we intend to engage with each other, and stakeholders to guide us in our daily conduct.

Council and Executive Management have the added responsibility of demonstrating, through their actions, the importance of this Code. In any organisation, ethical behaviour does not simply happen; it is the product of clear and direct communication of behavioural expectations, modeled from the top and demonstrated by example.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

The overall promotion (including awareness-raising, training, and the active dissemination of the Code), communication, maintenance and practical implementation of the Code is the responsibility of the Registrar, with the support of the University leadership.

8. REVISION OF THE CODE

This Code will be reviewed every three years to ensure its relevance and alignment with a changing environment. Where necessary, this Code may be reviewed earlier than the above period when there are major changes and/or gaps identified.

Entrepreneuring the Future Together

