The Center for Professional Responsibility in Business and Society leads the discussion about society’s expectations for a professional’s responsibility at both the individual and organizational level. It promotes the development of responsible professional behavior in today’s students, enabling them to become effective leaders in constantly changing and challenging business environments.

The Center also supports the creation and sharing of academic research and educational materials that demonstrate the value of conducting business professionally so as to serve and protect the broader public interest.

In fulfilling its mission, the Center works cooperatively with multiple audiences including university faculty, students, and staff; professional and academic organizations; corporations; and governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Center for Professional Responsibility in Business and Society

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business.illinois.edu/responsibility
Professional Responsibility

Business leaders know that an awareness, understanding and application of professional responsibility benefits individuals, organizations, and society. The Center increases awareness and encourages the application of professional responsibility among the next generation of business leaders.

Professional responsibility has taken root in the culture of the college, and students use it in their everyday lives. Students have successfully applied professional responsibility concepts and action in job interviews, student organizations and activities, and in case competitions.

Teaching & Curriculum

Business 101: An Introduction to Professional Responsibility
A required course for all incoming freshman business students that infuses concepts of professional responsibility in personal and interpersonal contexts. Students discover the meaning of responsibility in their careers and professional relationships and explore the ethical balance of profit motive and corporate responsibility within a global context.

Business 301: Principles of Professional Responsibility
Students interested in becoming Business 101 section leaders take this required course to learn about professional responsibility and to apply those principles in a variety of contexts in preparation for leading discussion sections with undergraduates.

Auditor Independence Education Materials (AIEM)
Videos, case studies, handouts and teaching notes facilitate student learning about core concepts, real-world applications, and prevailing rules related to auditor independence.

Faculty Outreach & Research

Faculty Lunch Forums are held on issues of professional responsibility.

An annual Ethics Curriculum Conference, co-hosted with the National Center for Professional and Research Ethics, brings together practitioners from across disciplines and institutions around the country to share content and best practices for teaching ethics.

Grants, educational partnerships, and a library of on-line materials, recorded lectures, videos, and research are part of the Center’s outreach. Check out the Center’s website for details.

Student & Public Engagement

Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership
An annual lecture that provides the opportunity for students and faculty, along with campus and community members, to hear distinguished senior executive perspectives on the critical nature of ethics and leadership in today’s business climate.

Professional Responsibility Strategy Competition
An annual competition where students experience the practical difficulties of professionally responsible decision making in a business context. Corporate participation adds elements of authenticity and consequence that energizes learning.

Professional Responsibility in Action Speaker Series
A series that explores real world challenges associated with addressing professional responsibility, ethics, and compliance issues in a corporate environment. Each seminar is a joint presentation by a business leader and an ethics/compliance leader from the same company.

B-PRO, Campus Student Organization
Business Professionals Working for a Principled Society was created by students who had interned or volunteered with the Center and felt strongly about the application of professional responsibility to their everyday lives.

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