

Key Definitions

Ethics

A system of moral principles; the branch of philosophy dealing with human values and moral conduct. Standards of right and wrong that prescribe what humans ought to do, usually in terms of rights, obligations, benefits to society, fairness, or specific virtues. Studying our own moral beliefs and our moral conduct, and ensuring that we, and the institutions we help to shape, live up to standards that are reasonable.

Integrity

Decision-making and consistent conduct that are based on personal principles or values directed for the right purposes; Accountability for one's actions; Doing the right thing.

Respect

Regard for the fundamental worth of someone or something. Includes respect for self, for the dignity of other people, for laws and authority, and for the environment.

Ethical Leadership

Leading by example and being a positive role model; Resisting peer pressure (by “choosing the harder right over the easier wrong” in USMA terms); Enabling a climate where other ethical leaders are developed; Demonstrating concern for others (parents, other students, teachers/staff, larger community) when making ethical decisions—how will others be impacted by my decision?

Honor Codes

Wikipedia definition of an Honor Code:

An honor code or honor system is a set of rules or principles governing a community based on a set of rules or ideals that define what constitutes honorable behavior within that community. The use of an honor code depends on the idea that people (at least within the community) can be trusted to act honorably. Those who are in violation of the honor code can be subject to various sanctions, including expulsion from the institution. Honor codes are most commonly used in the United States to deter academic dishonesty.

Honor Code Examples

"A Cadet will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do." – **United States Military Academy**

"The Honor Code of George Mason University deals specifically with cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing." – **George Mason University**

"On my honor I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this (exam, test, paper)." - **Rice University**

"Under code of honor, I certify when completing this work I did not give nor receive any type of help, outside the specified by the professor." – **Tecnológico de Monterrey**

"As a Member of the William & Mary community I pledge, on my Honor, not to lie, cheat, or steal in either my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust of which we are all stewards." – **The College of William and Mary**

"On my honor as a student, I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment/exam." – **University of Virginia**

"I pledge my honor that I have not violated the honor code during this examination." – **Princeton University**

"I have neither given or received nor have I tolerated others' use of unauthorized aid." – **Valparaiso University Honor Code**

"No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community." – **California Institute of Technology Honor Code**

"On my honor as a University of Colorado student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance." – **University of Colorado Honor Code**

"We, the students of the University of Richmond, shall promote and uphold a community of integrity and trust" – **University of Richmond Honor Councils**

"I Pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work." – **University of Richmond Student Pledge**

"On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work." – **Rollins College**

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." Scout Oath (or Promise) – **Boy Scouts of America**

"I have neither given, nor received any unauthorized aid. Nor have I witnessed a violation of the Honor Code." – **Gettysburg College**

Character

Those qualities that define a person's true nature including...



Values

Virtues

Ethics

Morals

Goals (demonstrated through
decisions & actions)

People of Character

Seek to discover the truth,
decide what is right
and
demonstrate the ability,
courage, and commitment
to act accordingly.



“All that is necessary for evil to triumph
is for good people to do nothing”

~ Edmund Burke ~

“What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us
are small matters compared to what lies within us.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

Leadership: Practice & Commitment

Practice

Commitment

Inspire.....

To a vision

Challenge.....

Find a better way

Model.....

Live by your values

Enable.....

Assign responsibility and authority

Encourage.....

Recognize achievement and provide guidance

Adapted from The Leadership Challenge. James M. Kouzes & Barry Z. Posner

A Code of Ethics

Purpose: In order to foster **trust** in all our endeavors, personal and professional, we adopt this *Code of Ethics* to guide our decisions and actions, in pursuit of excellence.

Premise: Trust is belief in and reliance on the **character and competence** of a person, organization, or institution. Trust is the foundation for successful relationships and endeavors.

Goal: In order to be trustworthy, we aspire to be people of **character and competence**. As such, we seek to discover the *truth*, decide what is *right*, and demonstrate the *ability, courage, and commitment* to act accordingly.

We live by these values:

- **Integrity** – decision-making and action based on principles
- **Honesty** – being truthful
- **Responsibility** – fulfilling obligations and accepting consequences
- **Respect** – recognizing the infinite dignity and worth of people and the sanctity of their property
- **Service & Community** – contribution to the welfare of others
- **Justice & Mercy** – adherence to moral law; fairness and compassion
- **Competence** – proficiency, expertise, professionalism, and wisdom
- **Courage** – willingness to do what is right despite uncertainty, risk, and fear
- **Humility** – recognition of our finite limitations and dependence on others for life and liberty in pursuit of happiness

Commitment. In the conduct of our activities we will strive to continuously develop our *character* and *competence*, seeking to improve these attributes in order to be worthy of trust and to contribute to the common good.

- That which is **good** is consistent with our sense of aesthetics, virtue, values, ethics, and morality
- That which is **moral** is known to our conscience – to which we pledge to be true

Commissioned Officers of the United States Army

Commissioned Officers are the uniformed leaders of the Army; they are Professional soldiers in service to the nation. In war and peace they are trusted *leaders of character*. They are collectively responsible for successful accomplishment of the Army's Mission. In the conduct of their duties they demonstrate professional *competence* and commitment to the *Professional Military Ethic* as embodied in the enduring creed: *Duty, Honor, Country*. Commissioned Officers adhere to *Army Values* in their decisions and actions.

As leaders of competence and character, Commissioned Officers continuously develop as members of the *Profession of Arms*. They diligently prepare for the responsibilities of their present and future career challenges and obligations. In all cases, they *serve* to accomplish the mission to the best of their abilities. They seek to discover the *truth*, decide what is *right*, and demonstrate the ability, *courage*, and commitment to act accordingly.

Upon taking the Oath of Office, Commissioned Officers accept the obligation and privilege of providing *loyal* support for and defense of the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. In fulfilling this obligation, Commissioned Officers accept the *responsibility* to obey the legal orders of those appointed over them and to manifest unqualified *integrity*, fostering trust between the Army and the society it defends.

As leaders of character, Commissioned Officers accept that all people have unalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. These fundamental rights demand a *respect* for humanity and property that is unqualified, even during the violence of war and the uncertain nature of hostile environments.

Commissioned Officers are leaders of American Soldiers, members of the Profession of Arms, committed to the Professional Military Ethic, and dedicated to the cause of liberty, under the Constitution of the United States of America.

Values: Those fundamental beliefs, precepts, and principles that are always important (values attendant to the Army Professional Ethic are: Integrity, Honor, Duty, Respect, Service, Loyalty, and Courage).

Professional Military Values

Integrity: Decision-making and conduct based on principles

Honor: Reverence for truth (honesty), commitment to justice (fairness), and due regard for the sanctity of property

Respect: Recognition of and appreciation for the intrinsic dignity and worth of all people

Duty: Contributing one's best effort to accomplish the mission; doing what is right to the best of one's ability; commitment to excellence in all endeavors

Loyalty: Allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America

Service: Conduct and contribution on behalf of others

Courage: Bravery (valor) and commitment to duty despite risk, uncertainty, and fear

What Will Matter



Michael Josephson, 2003

So what will matter?

How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built; not what you got, but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters

IF

By Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master,
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breath a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man, my son!



Desiderata

Max Ehrmann – 1927

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.



America is Great Because She is Good

By Alexis de Tocqueville

*I sought for the greatness
and genius of America
in her commodious harbors
and her ample rivers
and it was not there*

*in the fertile fields
and boundless prairies
and it was not there*

*in her rich mines
and her vast world commerce
and it was not there*

*Not until I went
into the churches of America
and heard her pulpits
aflake with righteousness
did I understand the secret
of her genius and power*

*America is great
because she is good
and if America ever ceases to be good
America will cease to be great*

*In the end
the state of the union
comes down to the character of its citizens*

