

## Ethical Issues in Psychology Lecture 18

### I. ETHICAL ISSUES

#### A. Introduction

- Ethics are the rules or standards governing the conduct of a person or the members of a profession
- As a psychology student you are governed by the ethics of
  - Being a WSU student.
  - Being a psychologist-in-training
    - Ethics with regard to research.
    - Ethics with regard to professional issues.
- In this lecture, we will discuss your ethical obligations as a student and as a psychologist-in-training.

### II. ETHICALS: STUDENTS

#### A. Introduction

- What obligations are students ethical expected to uphold or avoid?
  - Uphold All federal, state, local, and university rules.
  - Avoid conduct which unreasonably disrupts, adversely affects, or otherwise interferes with the lawful functions of the University, or the rights of any individual to pursue an education at WSU.
  - Avoid conduct which results in injury or damage to persons affiliated with the University or property owned or controlled by the University.
  - Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty

### II. ETHICALS: STUDENTS

#### B. Academic Ethics & Honesty

- The WSU Student Code (PPM 6-22) codifies the ethical obligation to maintain academic ethics and honesty. To this end, the following activities are specifically prohibited:
  - a. Cheating, which includes but is not limited to:
    - i) Copying from another student's test;
    - ii) Using unauthorized materials during a test
    - iii) Collaborating with unauthorized others during a test;
    - iv) Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or in part the contents of any test without authorization of the appropriate University official

## II. ETHICALS: STUDENTS

### B. Academic Ethics & Honesty

- To this end, the following activities are specifically prohibited:
  - a. Cheating, which includes but is not limited to:
    - v) Bribing any other person to obtain any test;
    - vi) Soliciting or receiving unauthorized information about any test;
    - vii) Substituting for another student or permitting any other person to substitute for oneself to take a test.
  - b. Plagiarism, which is the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work. This includes purchased or borrowed papers;

## II. ETHICALS: STUDENTS

### B. Academic Ethics & Honesty

- To this end, the following activities are specifically prohibited:
  - c. Collusion, which is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit;
  - d. Falsification, which is the intentional and unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation in an academic exercise, activity, or record-keeping process;
  - e. Giving, selling, or receiving unauthorized course or test information;

## II. ETHICALS: STUDENTS

### B. Academic Ethics & Honesty

- To this end, the following activities are specifically prohibited:
  - f. Using any unauthorized resource or aid in the preparation or completion of any course work, exercise, or activity;
  - g. Infringing on the copyright law of the United States which prohibits the making of reproductions of copyrighted material except under certain specified conditions.

## II. ETHICALS: STUDENTS

### B. Academic Ethics & Honesty

- Data on cheating or academic dishonesty
  - Landrum, Davis, & Landrum (2011) report that between 40% - 60% of college students self-report that they cheat or engage in others forms of academic dishonesty.
- Consequences of cheating or academic dishonesty
  - Faculty may have different consequences for cheating or academic dishonesty.
    - Some specify precise consequences(failing the course) whereas others take each case on a case-by-case basis.
  - Reports filed with the Dean of Students.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### A. Introduction

- Psychologists (even ones in training) have a code of ethics governing their activities.
- The APA ethics code was revised in 2002
  - Areas covered include but are not limited to the clinical, counseling, and school practice of psychology; research; teaching; supervision of trainees; public service; policy development; social intervention; development of assessment instruments; conducting assessments; educational counseling; organizational consulting; forensic activities; program design and evaluation; and administration.
  - The Ethics Code applies to professional activities across a variety of contexts (in person, postal, telephone, internet, and other electronic transmissions).

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### B. Research

- Informed Consent to Research
  - (a) When obtaining informed consent psychologists inform participants about
    - the purpose of the research, expected duration, and procedures;
    - their right to decline to participate and to withdraw from the research once participation has begun
    - the foreseeable consequences of declining or withdrawing
    - reasonably foreseeable factors that may be expected to influence their willingness to participate such as potential risks, discomfort, or adverse effects.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### B. Research

- Informed Consent
  - (a) When obtaining informed consent psychologists must inform participants about
    - any prospective research benefits
    - limits of confidentiality
    - incentives for participation
    - whom to contact for questions about the research and research participants' rights.
    - They provide opportunity for the prospective participants to ask questions and receive answers.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### B. Research

- Informed Consent
  - (b) Psychologists conducting intervention research must clarify to participants at the outset
    - the experimental nature of the treatment.
    - the services that will or will not be available to the control group(s) if appropriate.
    - the means by which assignment to treatment and control groups will be made.
    - available treatment alternatives if an individual does not wish to participate or withdraws once a study has begun.
    - compensation for or monetary costs of participating.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### B. Research

- Deception in Research
  - (a) Psychologists do not conduct a study involving deception unless they have determined that the use of deceptive techniques is justified by the study's significant prospective scientific, educational, or applied value and that effective non-deceptive alternative procedures are not feasible.
  - (b) Psychologists do not deceive prospective participants about research that is reasonably expected to cause physical pain or severe emotional distress.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### B. Research

- Sharing Research Data for Verification
  - After research results are published, psychologists do not withhold the data on which their conclusions are based from other competent professionals who seek to verify the substantive claims through reanalysis and who intend to use such data only for that purpose, provided that the confidentiality of the participants can be protected and unless legal rights concerning proprietary data preclude their release. This does not preclude psychologists from requiring that such individuals or groups be responsible for costs associated with the provision of such information.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### B. Research

- The Institutional Review Board
  - This is the body which decides that a research proposal meets all ethical practices.
    - Composed of faculty from different disciplines and community members
    - Its job is to protect the rights of participants.
    - Federal funding depends on having an active IRB.
  - The IRB may reject research proposals as having inadequate controls over the risk to participants.
    - It is very important to provide receive formal IRB approval for research by providing a clear and detailed account of the proposed research.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### C. Advertising

- Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements
  - Psychologists do not make false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements concerning
    - their training, experience, or competence
    - their academic degrees
    - their credentials
    - their institutional or association affiliations
    - their services
    - the scientific or clinical basis for, or results or degree of success of, their services
    - their fees
    - their publications or research findings.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### C. Advertising

- Statements by Others
  - (a) Psychologists who engage others to create or place public statements that promote their professional practice, products, or activities retain professional responsibility for such statements.
  - (b) Psychologists do not compensate employees of press, radio, television, or other communication media in return for publicity in a news item.
  - (c) A paid advertisement relating to psychologists' activities must be identified or clearly recognizable as such.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### C. Advertising

- Media Presentations
  - When psychologists provide public advice or comment via print, internet, or other electronic transmission, they take precautions to ensure that statements
    - are based on their professional knowledge, training, or experience in accord with appropriate psychological literature and practice
    - are otherwise consistent with this Ethics Code
    - do not indicate that a professional relationship has been established with the recipient.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### C. Advertising

- Testimonials
  - Psychologists do not solicit testimonials from current therapy clients/patients or other persons who because of their particular circumstances are vulnerable to undue influence.
- In-Person Solicitation
  - Psychologists do not engage, directly or through agents, in uninvited in-person solicitation of business from actual or potential therapy clients/patients or other persons who because of their particular circumstances are vulnerable to undue influence.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### D. Human Relations

- Conflict of Interest
  - Psychologists refrain from taking on a professional role when personal, scientific, professional, legal, financial, or other interests or relationships could reasonably be expected to
    - impair their objectivity, competence, or effectiveness in performing their functions as psychologists
    - expose the person or organization with whom the professional relationship exists to harm or exploitation.
- What kinds of roles are these which are being prohibited?

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### D. Human Relations

- Multiple Relationships
  - (a) A multiple relationship occurs when a psychologist is in a professional role with a person and
    - at the same time is in another role with the same person,
    - at the same time is in a relationship with a person closely associated with or related to the person with whom the psychologist has the professional relationship
    - promises to enter into another relationship in the future with the person or a person closely associated with or related to the person.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### D. Human Relations

- Multiple Relationships
  - A psychologist refrains from entering into a multiple relationship if the multiple relationship could reasonably be expected to impair the psychologist's objectivity, competence, or effectiveness in performing his or her functions as a psychologist, or otherwise risks exploitation or harm to the person with whom the professional relationship exists.
  - Multiple relationships that would not reasonably be expected to cause impairment or risk exploitation or harm are not unethical.

### III. ETHICS: PSYCHOLOGISTS

#### D. Human Relations

- Multiple Relationships
  - (b) If a psychologist finds that, due to unforeseen factors, a potentially harmful multiple relationship has arisen, the psychologist takes reasonable steps to resolve it with due regard for the best interests of the affected person and compliance with the Code.
  - (c) When psychologists are required by law, institutional policy, or extraordinary circumstances to serve in more than one role in judicial or administrative proceedings, at the outset they clarify role expectations and the extent of confidentiality and thereafter as changes occur.