

Virginia State University  
Policies Manual

Title: Code of Ethics Policy

Policy: 1700

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the University faculty, staff, students and its representatives in ethical conduct at Virginia State University. The University's mission is "to promote and sustain academic programs that integrate instruction, research, and extension/public service in a design most responsive to the needs and endeavors of individuals and groups within our scope of influence." In order to meet this mission, the University has established ethical standards that must be the foundation for decisions and actions.

**Authority, Responsibility, and Duties**

The University faculty, staff, administration, students and Board of Visitors are responsible for adhering to these ethical standards. This will ensure that the financial resources and social responsibilities entrusted by the public are used and carried out in an ethical manner. This policy should be used in conjunction with federal, state and local laws, University policies and procedures, and other rules and regulations as established by other governing bodies.

**Definitions**

- a. Trust- assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something.
- b. Honesty- fairness and straightforwardness of conduct
- c. Respect- to consider worthy of high regard
- d. Responsibility- moral, legal, or mental accountability
- e. Integrity- conduct that conforms to an accepted standard of right and wrong
- f. Stewardship- the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially*: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care
- g. Accountability- an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions
- h. Compliance- conformity in fulfilling official requirements

**Policy Statements**

Virginia State University is committed to an environment of the highest ethical standards. Therefore, members of the faculty, staff, administration, students and any representatives, including contractual agents (here after, the University) shall adhere to the following principles:

1. Honesty and Trust- The members of the University will be honest and fair in their actions and dealings with each other and the public at large. Decisions shall be made without bias or favoritism or an appearance thereof.

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2. Trust and Respect- The University will treat all members of the community with civility and consideration. We will treat everyone with respect and tolerate diversity and the rights of others.
3. Responsibility and Accountability- The University will accept responsibility for their decisions and actions. We will also understand that it is our responsibility to report any misdealing or illegal activity.
4. Stewardship and Compliance- The University will be excellent stewards of all resources entrusted to its care. By being excellent stewards, we will comply with all rules, laws, regulations, policies and procedures governing our activities.

**References**

None

**Approved by:** Eddie N. Moore, Jr., President

**Date:** August 14, 2007