

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

OBJECTIVE/RATIONALE

Every research study raises a unique scenario of ethical and legal issues. The student will identify and review ethical and legal issues related to the project and meet expectations related to professional conduct.

TEKS 3A, 3B, 3C

TAKS ELA 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

KEY POINTS

Examination of the ethical implications of a study is vital. Every research study raises a unique set of ethical issues. However, there are accepted ethical standards that every researcher should incorporate into their study:

1. respect for study subjects
2. benefits of the research are proportional to any risks assumed by subjects
3. results of the research are disseminated fairly

Research subjects should be regarded as individuals and treated with respect. Study subjects should always be informed of the purpose of the study. Their written informed consent to participate in the study should be sought. Their involvement in the study, how privacy and confidentiality will be guarded, their right to refuse or stop participating, and the manner in which the data will be used should also be clearly explained. Respect for study subjects will improve the scientific quality of the research by improving compliance with the researcher's requests and instructions.

The well-being of the study subjects should be protected. The research should minimize any possible risks and maximize the benefits of subjects participating in the study. A valid research design should be utilized to ensure the benefits of the research are proportionate to the risks. Study subjects participate in research studies in order to benefit society as a whole. Therefore, no single group, especially not the disadvantaged, vulnerable, or minority groups, should be asked to bear a disproportionate share of the risk.

Any benefits resulting from the research should be disseminated fairly. If the problems are too complex to deal with in the amount of time allotted, the research proposal should be modified.

The Department of Health and Human Services has summarized guidelines, as follows, to ensure that research is conducted in an ethically acceptable manner:

- Risks to subjects are minimized and proportionate to the anticipated benefits and knowledge
- Data are monitored to ensure the safety of subjects
- Selection of subjects is equitable
- If subjects are vulnerable, additional safeguards are included
- Informed consent is obtained, including:
 - Nature of the research study
 - Procedures involved in the study
 - Potential risks and benefits of the study
 - Participation is voluntary
 - Confidentiality is protected
 - Answers to questions that study subjects have are made available
- Confidentiality is adequately protected

ACTIVITIES

- I. Students will research the literature for legal and ethical issues related to the project and write a summary of the literature review to be utilized in the project proposal.

MATERIALS / RESOURCES

Computer, printer, access to internet

http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/lester/ethics/ethics_list.html



ASSESSMENT

[Writing Rubric](#)

REFLECTIONS
