

Faculty Learning Communities in Ethics

Award Recipients, 2009-2010

Dick Gayler, FLC Coordinator

Participants:
Pamila Dembla
Sherri Shade
Ben Setzer
Hisham Haddad
Amy Woszczyński

1. Ethics in the Computing Curriculum

The Information Systems and Computer Science undergraduate programs are both ABET accredited. ABET accreditation criteria requires a coverage of ethics relative to the program be a part of the curriculum. Both programs have chosen to incorporate appropriate ethics coverage into existing courses as opposed to having a separate ethics course. During the preparation for the upcoming ABET re-accreditation visit, it became apparent that the current ethics coverage is not sufficient. The goal of the this learning community is to increase the ethics coverage by developing case studies that can be incorporated into existing courses and developing assessment measures to measure the student learning from these case studies. These case studies can be either modification of existing case studies or the development of new case studies. A critical part of the discussion will be how to assess the student learning from the case study.

Peter Fenton, FLC Coordinator

Participants:
Rebecca Petersen
Jennifer McMahon-Howard
Stan Crowder
Christopher Totten
Michael Shapiro

2. Use of Role Play and Practical Exercises in Teaching Ethics in Criminal Justice

Ethics in Criminal Justice is a required course for all criminal justice majors at KSU. This course is an integral component of the criminal justice curriculum because most of our CJ graduates will seek employment in the criminal justice system – law enforcement, courts, or corrections - upon graduation. Because criminal justice professionals are given virtually unbridled discretion to exercise authority over members of our community, it is critically important that, as part of their academic experience, our students are exposed to a variety of ethical dilemmas that they may face in carrying out their various professional duties. To be most effective, the teaching of Ethics in Criminal Justice should involve not only traditional pedagogical techniques such as lectures and class discussions, but also more practical educational methods, particularly student participation in “table top” problem-solving exercises and role playing. The goal of this proposed Faculty Learning Community will be to examine methodologies for incorporating a practical component in the Ethics in Criminal Justice course, to develop effective guidelines and examples for implementing this component, and to assure consistency and continuity in the inclusion of practical problem-solving and role play activities in all sections of the course.

Miriam Boeri, FLC Coordinator

Participants:
Darina Lepadatu
Robin C. Crawford
Ellen (“Elli”) Ballard

3. Ethical Student Research: Developing the Sociology Research Methods and Senior Seminar Sequenced Courses with Ethics as a Foundational Pillar

Sociology Research Methods (SOCI 2310) and Senior Seminar (SOCI 4499) were developed as sequenced courses in 2005 following recommendations set by our professional association, the American Sociological Association (ASA 2004). In the first course, Research Methods in Sociology, students learn the basics of research methods used in social science research. By the end of the course, they will have designed a research study/project proposal. In the Senior Seminar, the study is conducted and findings are presented in a paper with either a poster or a paper presentation in class. In this FLC, we will further develop the courses and standardize some of the requirements, incorporating ethics as the foundational pillar. Ethics play a major role in the research process from the research design to the presentation of the findings. We will discuss how ethics will be a focus in each step of teaching research, conducting research, presenting findings, and all the learning activities included in these two courses and future research courses. The final product will be two new course descriptions to submit to UPCC, a template for teaching syllabi for the two-course sequence, and a workshop/presentation to submit to a professional conference.