

INFORMS Ethical Guidelines

Members of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) advance the science and practice of quantitative decision-making via operations research and analytics. We recognize a responsibility to uphold high ethical standards on behalf of society, our organizations, and the profession. The following ethical guidelines are intended to be aspirational, something INFORMS members should attempt to follow throughout their career.

1. Society

Whereas operations research and analytics can have a deep impact on society, with applications ranging from medical decisions to national defense, business strategy, public policy, and many other contexts, we aspire to be:

- **Accountable** for our professional actions and the impact of our work.
- **Forthcoming** about our assumptions, interests, sponsors, motivations, and potential conflicts of interest.
- **Honest** in reporting our results, even when they fail to yield the desired outcome.
- **Objective** in our assessments of facts, irrespective of our opinions or beliefs.
- **Responsible** for undertaking research and projects that provide positive benefits by advancing our scientific understanding, contributing to organizational improvements, and supporting social good.

2. Our Organizations

Whereas our work influences the success and standing of our organizations (universities, businesses, government and nonprofit agencies) as well as our constituencies (students, clients, customers, and suppliers), we aspire to be:

- **Accurate** in our assertions, reports, and presentations.
- **Alert** to possible unintended or negative consequences that our results and recommendations may have on others.
- **Informed** of advances and developments in the fields relevant to our work.
- **Realistic** in our claims of achievable results, and in acknowledging when the best course of action may be to terminate a project.
- **Rigorous** in our modeling, calculations, and analysis.

3. The Profession

Whereas we are part of the profession of operations research and analytics and have an obligation to help advance the profession and to uphold high standards on behalf of our colleagues and future generations, we aspire to be:

- **Cooperative** by sharing best practices, information, and ideas with colleagues, young professionals, and students.
- **Impartial** in our praise or criticism of others and their accomplishments, setting aside personal interests.

- **Respectful** and inclusive of all colleagues and their values, and rejecting discrimination and harassment in any form.
- **Tolerant** of well-conducted research and well-reasoned results, which may differ from our own findings or opinions.
- **Vigilant** by speaking out against actions that are damaging to the profession.

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