Hello, and welcome!

Have you ever been a victim of a cyberattack? Or do you worry about someone stealing information about you on social media? Do you wonder if what you read online is true? Many of us face issues like these every day. In this course, you will explore the ethical considerations of using technology. You will study a range of topics that challenge technologists in the field of information ethics. Along the way, you will focus on these four categories: privacy, accuracy, access, and security.

We invite you to take a minute to learn about the course by reviewing the information that follows. This way, you will be better able to understand the expectations of the course as a whole. Then you can determine how to manage your time and efforts as you navigate through it.

You are in the right place. You belong here. You can do this! You can do this!
Course Description and Competencies

What to Expect

As you work through this course, you will study specific cases related to the ethical use of technology. These will help inform your professional responsibilities as you navigate challenging topics. Such topics include surveillance, social media, hacking, data manipulation, plagiarism, and piracy. They also include artificial intelligence and the digital divide.

This course is broken into four main modules with a total of 11 units. These illustrate how to implement ethical decision-making. They present common ethical issues you may face in your career. And they explain specific actions you can incorporate into your professional behavior.

Throughout the course, you will find a variety of interactive elements. These include knowledge checks to help deepen your understanding of the content. Engaging with these activities reinforces new learning. It also complements the knowledge you bring to this area of study.

This course covers the following competencies:

1. The learner implements ethical decision-making frameworks in the information age.

2. The learner describes ethical issues regarding data privacy, accuracy, access, and security.

3. The learner explains professional ethical codes and their role in guiding professional behavior.

4. The learner identifies interventions for personal bias and related legal concerns.

The objective assessment allows you to demonstrate three core competencies from the course. You will have two attempts to pass the exam.
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<th>Module:</th>
<th>Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:</th>
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| **1** Thought & Action | • Make ethical decisions in the context of a team or community.  
• Distinguish between ethical and unethical behavior.  
• Describe common ethical issues.  
• Demonstrate confidentiality, integrity, and availability (the CIA triad). |
| **2** Privacy & Property | • Identify the different ways to securely transmit data.  
• Comply with national and international consumer data protection and privacy regulations. |
| **3** Society & Tech | • Implement processes to control access to and protect data.  
• Guide your practice and conduct using profession-specific ethics codes.  
• Behave in an honest and ethical manner. |
| **4** Future Ethics | • Address and mitigate ethical issues in business operations.  
• Apply ethical concepts in personal bias. |
Technology Requirements

We want you to have the tools to succeed! Since this course includes at least one proctored test, please be sure to have a working microphone, speakers, and an external webcam. Unfortunately, an internal webcam (built into many laptops) is not acceptable. For other details about the technology you’ll need, review the Computer System and Technology Requirements. If you have questions about your setup, contact support@academy.wgu.edu.

Key Contacts

Your Fellow Learners

Check out the Ethics in Technology Lobby in the course site! In this online community, you can ask questions and explore ideas. You can touch base with your fellow learners. When you use this site, you will realize that other learners may have the same questions you have. You can all benefit from learning together!

Tutor.com

If you need academic support, don’t hesitate to contact Tutor.com. There, you have access to thousands of tutors. And they are available 24/7 from any internet-ready device. You can also benefit from instructional videos, study tools, and other assistance.

Technical Support

If you encounter technical issues, be sure to contact the Help Desk. Just submit a Support Request for assistance.

Program Support

Do you have questions about your account? Our Academy Support Team has answers. They can help with billing, switching courses, and other requests. You can contact them at (888) 320-0540 or support@academy.wgu.edu.

Accommodations

WGU Academy provides compliant and accessible learning experiences. If you require accommodation, please contact us at the start of the course. You can email StudentAffairs@academy.wgu.edu or call (888) 320-0540. We are committed to ensuring that all students with disabilities have equal access to WGU Academy’s services and materials. We strive to use best practices for accessibility. Our goal is to conform to existing U.S. laws. These include the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Our learning management system (LMS) platform is Open edX. Open edX’s commitment to accessible content is published on their Website Accessibility Policy.