

Center of Academic Excellence Community of Practice

## Cyber Defense Student Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct

As a cybersecurity student, you are expected to uphold a code of ethics and professional behavior that promotes the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and professionalism. This code serves as a guide to help you make ethical decisions and to maintain the trust and confidence of your clients, colleagues, and the public. Because the Bachelor of Information Technology and Management is our designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education program, this code applies to all students in that curriculum as well as students in all formally named Illinois Tech cybersecurity degrees.

The following are the principles of the cybersecurity student code of ethics and professional behavior for students attending National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity schools, as edited for use in Illinois Institute of Technology cybersecurity programs:

1. **Respect:** Treat others with respect, honesty, and act in a legal and moral manner. Always respect the laws and regulations that govern your profession. Never engage in any activities that might be considered illegal or unethical.
2. **Professionalism:** Conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times. Always adhere to ethical standards when dealing with clients, colleagues, and the public. Ensure your actions are based on sound judgment, integrity, and the highest levels of ethical conduct.
3. **Confidentiality:** Maintain privacy and confidentiality of information, especially for protected health information, personally identifiable information, or intellectual property entrusted to you.
4. **Accountability:** Take responsibility for your actions. Be accountable for any mistakes or errors that you make. Learn from your mistakes and take steps to prevent them from happening again.
5. **Collaboration:** Strive to collaborate online and in-person with other cyber professionals to make the cyber world safer and more secure for all.
6. **Attribution:** Always give credit for the work of others. Only use generative AI with proper attribution and proper permission from your course faculty or your faculty research advisers and/or partners.
7. **Continuous Learning:** Continue as a life-long learner to ensure competency in the field. Share your knowledge with others and promote best practices.
8. **Reporting:** Cybersecurity students and professionals should report to appropriate authorities any unethical or illegal behavior you observe in the course of your work.

By adhering to this code of ethics and professional behavior, cybersecurity students can build a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and respect for the public interest.