

07.01 Ethics

Revised [November 12, 2020](#) (MO -2020)
Next Scheduled Review: November 12, 2025
Click to view [Revision History](#).



Policy Summary

The Board of Regents (board) of The Texas A&M University System (system) promulgates the following ethical principles and standards to ensure that the board members and all persons employed by the system, regardless of rank or position, are held to the highest ethical standards. Texas Government Code, Section 572.051 requires all state agencies to adopt a written ethics policy consistent with the standards set forth therein.

Policy

1. PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Board members and system employees must conduct themselves in a manner that strengthens the public's trust and confidence by adhering to the following principles:

- (a) honesty, accountability, transparency, respect and trust;
- (b) integrity of the highest caliber;
- (c) conduct that is indisputable and beyond reproach;
- (d) openness and fairness; and
- (e) commitment to compliance.

2. CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Board members and system employees must:

- (a) be honest and ethical in their conduct and the performance of their duties;
- (b) adhere to all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations, system policies and regulations, and member rules and procedures;
- (c) protect and conserve system resources and not use them for unauthorized activities;
- (d) endeavor to avoid any actions that would create the appearance that they are violating the law, system policies and regulations or member rules and procedures;
- (e) not hold direct or indirect financial interests or other interests that are in conflict with the conscientious performance of their official duties and responsibilities;

- (f) not engage in any financial transaction in order to further any private interest using nonpublic information which they obtain in the course of their employment;
- (g) not make unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind the system;
- (h) not use their public offices for private gain;
- (i) act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private or public organization or individual;
- (j) not act as agents for another person in the negotiation of the terms of any agreement relating to the provision of money, services, or property to the system or any of its members;
- (k) not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflict with official duties and responsibilities, i.e., conflicts of commitment;
- (l) promptly disclose fraud, waste, abuse and corruption in accordance with System Policy *10.02, Fraud, Waste and Abuse*;
- (m) strictly adhere to all state and federal laws and regulations, system policies and regulations, and member rules and procedures regarding discrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other classification protected by federal, state or local law; and
- (n) be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal upon violation of any of the foregoing.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[Tex. Educ. Code § 51.9337](#)

[Tex. Gov't Code § 572.051](#)

[System Policy 07.03, *Conflicts of Interest, Dual Office Holding and Political Activities*](#)

[System Policy 07.04, *Benefits, Gifts and Honoraria*](#)

[System Policy 08.01, *Civil Rights Protections and Compliance*](#)

[System Regulation 08.01.01, *Civil Rights Compliance*](#)

[System Policy 10.02, *Fraud, Waste and Abuse*](#)

[System Policy 31.05, *External Employment and Expert Witness*](#)

[System Policy 33.04, *Use of System Resources*](#)

Member Rule Requirements

A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

Contact Office

System Ethics and Compliance Office
(979) 458-6008