

My Code of Ethics

My childhood was one that taught me the importance of hard work and accountability. I grew up with a busy lifestyle, living on a farm, moving hay bales, cleaning stalls, and upkeeping our property and animals. With so many animals and chores to look after, it left very little time and money for experiences like vacations and traveling for sports tournaments. I played four sports year-round and was practically living at training facilities when I wasn't working on the farm at home. Playing sports year-round not only took commitment and dedication but also money. I was taught at a young age that if I really wanted to do something, I needed to work hard for it. In order to pay for my jerseys, travel, food, equipment, etc., I took on several jobs, including at-home car detailing, babysitting, and dog walking while being a full-time student. Having such big responsibilities at a young age allowed me to value and understand the importance of time management, leadership, hard work, and consistent growth to reach specific goals.

My childhood values are a mere reflection of my beliefs and aspirations in a personal and professional setting. Commitment, dedication, hard work, and accountability are the personal values that have been engraved into my day-to-day life. Finding the importance of these beliefs at a young age pushed me to not only meet expectations but exceed them in any setting or situation. This is crucial in professional ethics as it shows an individual's responsibility and passion for personal growth within an organization. Professionals seek individuals who don't only check the boxes but consistently grow with the company, making themselves and the organization the best version they can be. My driven work ethic has challenged me to learn new values and ideas in order to gain and share more knowledge while deepening my core beliefs of commitment, dedication, hard work, and accountability.

With over eight years of experience working in customer service, I have an understanding of expectations and codes of conduct in a professional setting. My rules for professional and ethical beliefs include respect and professionalism, accountability, commitment to excellence, and integrity. Being respectful and professional is a crucial ethical belief that ensures each individual is valued and encourages collaborative engagement. This belief would have employees treat clients, colleagues, and management with respect by using appropriate language, attire, and actions. This is important as it shows the individual's respect and appreciation for his or her peers, organization, and contribution to a positive environment. According to Business News Daily, anyone on the “receiving end of disrespectful behavior are more likely to experience lower job satisfaction and engagement”(Business News Daily, 2020, para. 2). This directly shows the effects of one's action on the entire organization and the work environment making respect and professionalism a critical value within a professional setting.

Accountability means taking responsibility for one's actions and fostering a positive work environment. This is a significant value because it encourages an individual's personal growth within a professional setting and understanding of the consequences of one's actions. One of the guidelines of ethical decisions is taking accountability for your own actions, according to the Ethical Communication PowerPoint (Kolin, n.d., slide 6). Accountability ties directly to a commitment to excellence by understanding through mistakes comes learning and growth. This approach requires an individual's commitment to not only contribute to the organization but also grow with it personally and professionally. The last rule is integrity; acting with integrity and honesty in any setting is valuable as it builds trust with colleagues, clients, other organizations, etc. Being honest and transparent decreases the likelihood of miscommunication or

misunderstanding. This rule ensures the protection of the organization's reputation and creates ethical standards for all employees in a professional setting.

The code of conduct I have created fosters a healthy and positive work environment and encourages employees to learn and grow within the professional setting. My personal background of commitment, dedication, hard work, and accountability has allowed me to evaluate my personal beliefs, values, and aspirations. These values have shaped me into a young professional who consistently strives for success and exceeds expectations. Prioritizing values such as respect and professionalism, accountability, commitment to excellence, and integrity ensure the success of both the organization and the individual. Looking forward, the commitment to ethical behavior shapes an environment of integrity, transparency, and collaborative engagement between colleagues, clients, and other stakeholders. Reflecting on my personal insights and values, I ensure that this code of ethics will remain relevant and create a foundation of excellence.

References

Katelyn Macomber

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