

# Accounting Scholars Program Honor Code

## **Our Mission**

The Accounting Scholars Program strives to enhance teamwork among our scholars, increase integrity in the business world, shape the next generation of distinctive leaders in the accounting community, and inspire each other to create lasting value for our Program and our community.

## **Our Core Values**

Our core values are essential to our success as individuals and an academic program. We must hold true to our values to properly represent ourselves and the Program.

### *Achieve* **Distinction**

We must strive to appropriately represent the program by achieving distinction academically, professionally and personally. As members of the Accounting Scholars Program, we are meant to be a *cut above the rest*.

### *Take* **Responsibility**

We take responsibility for our own success and failures. We celebrate success and see failures as opportunities for growth. We recognize that we are responsible for our own happiness and success and that we must take ownership of our own careers.

### *Value* **Diversity**

We value the skills, strengths, and perspectives of our diverse program. We will foster a participatory environment that enables people to get involved in making decisions about their work that advance our common program objectives.

### *Enhance* **Teamwork**

We recognize the strength of our program is our people. We will continually participate, learn, and share ideas and knowledge. We will encourage cooperative efforts at every level and across all activities in our program.

### *Develop* **Leadership**

We will be a University-wide leader in every aspect of our program and in developing our team leadership skills at every level. We strive not to just develop good accountants, but to develop good leaders.

## **Our Pillars of Success**

These core behaviors are the manifestation of our core values. We must stand on these pillars in our daily endeavors to be productive members of the Program.

### **Excellence**

We must commit to a culture of excellence. We pursue excellence by leaving our comfort zone to experience, learn, and grow as individuals. Through our individual growth, we continue to grow and achieve excellence as a Program.

### **Integrity**

We will act with integrity in our commitment to uphold the highest standards of academic and professional excellence. As integrity is the foundation of who we are and what we stand for, we must build trust and respect among all of our scholastic and professional relationships.

### **Perseverance**

We must persevere beyond our immediate problems to ensure our long-term achievement. We must encourage one another to be reliable, adapt to any situation, and prosper under any circumstances.

## **We Give Back**

One of the essential characteristics of our Program is our willingness to donate our resources to our scholars, our program, our university, and our community. Through the programs developed from within the scholars program, we must be faithful to give our financial resources and our time.

The Scholars Program offers numerous opportunities to give back. While a student, every scholar is expected to participate in the advancement of the program through activities such as the Student Mentoring Program and Celebration. Upon completion of the program, Scholars are asked promote the program throughout their careers, participate in student-professional mentor programs, and attend alumni events. To ensure the quality and longevity of the program, every scholar is expected to participate in our annual giving plan. Our generosity will allow future scholars to experience the world-class educational program that we envision.

## **Framework for Ethical Decision Making**

**Recognize the Event, Decision or Issue.** Are you tempted to do something that you may think is in fact wrong? Are you aware of unethical conduct on the part of others in the Accounting Scholars Program?

**Think Before You Act.** Summarize and clarify your issue. Ask yourself, why the dilemma? Consider the options and consequences. Consider who may be affected. Consult others.

**Decide on a Course of Action.** Determine your responsibility. Review all relevant facts and information. Refer to applicable University policies. Assess the risks and how you could reduce them. Contemplate the best course of action. Consult others.

**Test your decision.** Apply the Accounting Scholars Program values to your decision. Make sure you have considered University policies, Program standards, and your own ethical standards. Consult others.

**Proceed with Confidence.** Communicate decision and rationale to stakeholders. Reflect upon what was learned. Share your success stories with others.

### **Summary of Ethical Questions to Consider**

1. Is it against Program standards?
2. Is it against University policy and code of conduct?
3. Does it feel right?
4. Will it reflect negatively on you or the Program?
5. Who else could be affected by this?
6. Would you be embarrassed if others knew you took this course of action?
7. Is there an alternative action that does not pose ethical conflict?
8. How would it look in the newspapers?
9. What would a reasonable person think?
10. Can you sleep at night?