



# **BODHISASTRA CODE OF ETHICS AND INTEGRITY OFFICIAL POLICY**

## **Introduction and Purpose**

Bodhisastra University Florida (“the University”) is established on the enduring values of wisdom, compassion, and integrity. As a religious, independent institute and online educational platform, our role is more than just providing academic learning; we are dedicated to nurturing ethical leaders, responsible professionals, and compassionate global citizens.

The aims of this policy are to:

- Clearly define the ethical expectations for everyone within our University community.
- Offer guidance on proper conduct in academic, professional, and personal contexts.
- Promote transparency, accountability, and trust throughout all University operations.

## **Scope of Application**

This Code is applicable to every individual affiliated with the University, such as:

- All students, including those enrolled online or in hybrid formats.
- Faculty and academic staff (full-time, part-time, adjunct, and visiting instructors).
- Administrative, management, and technical team members.
- Contractors, vendors, and third-party service providers.
- Alumni and external partners when engaged in official University activities.

## **Core Ethical Values**

### Academic Integrity

- Honesty in academic work is essential—plagiarism, falsification, collusion, and cheating are prohibited.
- Students must submit original work and correctly cite all sources when used.
- Faculty are responsible for fair assessment and transparency in grading.



# BODHISASTRA UNIVERSITY

- Researchers are expected to be accurate and honest in collecting, reporting, and publishing data.

## Respect, Dignity, and Inclusivity

- Our community upholds respect for every individual, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, nationality, or background.
- No tolerance for discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or hate speech.
- Professionalism, safety, and inclusivity are required in all online classes, forums, and meetings.

## Professional and Ethical Conduct

- Faculty and staff must act impartially and avoid conflicts of interest or favoritism.
- Personal relationships that could affect fairness in teaching, grading, or supervision should be disclosed.
- All University members must keep student records, financial data, and intellectual property confidential.

## Digital Responsibility

- Improper use of University platforms, cyberbullying, and unauthorized access are strictly forbidden.
- All users are expected to protect their digital identity and safeguard personal information.
- University e-learning systems are to be used only for academic activities, as outlined in University policy.

## Research Integrity

- Research must comply with ethical standards, including voluntary participation and informed consent, while respecting human and cultural rights.
- Any form of plagiarism, data falsification, or misrepresentation is a serious breach.
- External funding must be transparent and free from inappropriate influence.

## Social Responsibility

- The University is committed to societal service and uplifting communities worldwide.
- Students and faculty are encouraged to contribute their expertise for the common good.
- Trustworthy and ethical business or community partnerships are vital for our reputation and credibility.



## **Compliance and Accountability**

### Reporting Violations

- Any University member can report suspected ethical violations via designated confidential channels.
- Those who report misconduct (whistleblowers) will be protected from retaliation.

### Investigations

- The Office of Ethics and Integrity will review all reported violations.
- Investigations will be fair, unbiased, and compliant with due process rules.

### Consequences of Misconduct

- Sanctions may include warnings, suspension, course removal, employment termination, or degree revocation (in cases of proven fraud or plagiarism).
- Appeal mechanisms are in place to ensure fairness.

## **Governance and Oversight**

- The Board of Governors and University President are responsible for overall oversight.
- The Office of Ethics and Integrity enforces this Code, conducts awareness initiatives, and provides regular reports.
- This Code will be reviewed at least every three years to align with best practices and regulatory changes.

## **Education and Training**

- All students are required to complete an Academic Integrity Orientation at the start of their studies.
- Faculty and staff will receive annual training in ethics, online teaching, digital responsibilities, and student engagement.
- Research personnel must participate in specific training on research ethics and publication standards.



## **Commitment to Global Standards**

As Bodhisastra University Florida pursues international accreditation (including ASIC and U.S. agencies), observing the highest ethical standards is vital. This Code recognizes both Florida State religious exemptions and worldwide higher education best practices, supporting our credibility and global standing.

## **Affirmation of Commitment**

By enrolling, teaching, or working at Bodhisastra University Florida, every individual pledges to:

- Maintain honesty, respect, and responsibility in all actions.
- Honor the rights, dignity, and diversity of every person.
- Advance the University's mission to spread knowledge with wisdom, compassion, and integrity.

