

## R5 STUDENT ETHICS COMPETITION (SEC)

**Date:** Friday Afternoon, April 18, 2008

**Location:** Flarsheim Hall, Room 460 and 560L, UMKC

Transportation from the conference site may be requested on the registration form  
(See R5 Conference Registration desk for any directions)

**Time:** Orientation 1:00 pm,

Team Preparation (no outside resources allowed, computer provided) 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm

Oral Presentations (8 to 12-minute PowerPoint with 5-minute for Q&A) 3:45 pm to 5:45 pm

### **Case for Analysis:**

Case is provided to the teams at the orientation. It is supplied by the IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee.

### **Eligibility:**

IEEE student members (undergraduate or graduate) who are registered for the R5 Conference. (Student participants must have a current or pending IEEE membership. There is no additional competition costs beyond student conference registration and IEEE membership. Team substitutions are at the discretion of the Contest Chair.)

**Awards:** Announced at the Saturday Conference Banquet, Certificates are awarded to the winning team members. Cash prizes are \$400 for the student branch of the first place team and \$200 for the student branch of the second place team. The branch may distribute the money to the winning team or use the money for branch activities.

**COMPETITION REGISTRATION:** E-mail SEC Form to [steve.e.watkins@ieee.org](mailto:steve.e.watkins@ieee.org) by Friday April 4, 2008. Forms will only be accepted for students register for the R5 Conference.

The judging criteria, analysis of an example case, and ethics resources are available below. For other questions concerning the R5 Student Ethics Competition, please contact the Contest Chair, Dr. Steve E. Watkins at [steve.e.watkins@ieee.org](mailto:steve.e.watkins@ieee.org).

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## IEEE SEC PRESENTATION GUIDELINE

- I **Purpose:** To present and defend an analysis of a situation in professional ethics.
- II **Topic:** A hypothetical case generally dealing with (1) Public Safety and Welfare, (2) Conflict of Interest, (3) Engineering Practice, or (4) Research Ethics. The selected case will have two or more ethical questions or components.
- III **Preparation:**
  - A. Two hours to analyze a selected case and prepare a PowerPoint presentation  
(access will be provided to a computer with no internet connection)
  - B. Collaboration is limited to members of individual teams.
  - C. Resources are limited to written contest materials.  
(Internet access, books, etc. are not allowed)
  - D. All teams will receive the same case.
  - E. Teams will not be allowed to collaborate, practice, modify presentation, etc. after the end of preparation. Teams may observe other presentations after their presentation.
- IV **Requirements:**
  - A. PowerPoint presentation with significant speaking involvement of all team members
  - B. Presentation Time 8-12 minutes
  - C. The order of presentation among the teams will be randomly chosen.
  - D. Required Components (see example case studies)
    - Case Facts – restatement of relevant facts
    - Question(s) – summary of ethical questions
    - References – identification of relevant sections from IEEE code
    - Discussion – analysis of case. The analysis of the case should be performed using the IEEE Code of Ethics.
    - Conclusion – position statement on each of the identified ethical questions and recommendation for action
- VI **Oral Defense**
  - A. The judges will ask questions relating to the selected case and the presented analysis.
  - B. Each team member must respond to at least one question.
  - C. Time for the defense period will be approximately 5 minutes.
- V **Comments**
  - A. Timing lights or other indications will be provided.

## IEEE STUDENT ETHICS COMPETITION JUDGING FORM (2 Member Team Option)

CATEGORIES	SCORES
DEDUCTIONS	
Time Adherence (deduction of 5 points for every 30 seconds outside of time limits) (Timing Lights or Signals at 8, 10, and 12 minute points)	_____
Lack of significant involvement of all team members in presentation (10 point maximum deduction)	_____
TEAM PRESENTATION (70 points)	
Case Facts – restatement of relevant facts (5 points)	_____
Question(s) – summary of ethical questions (10 points)	_____
References – identification of relevant sections from IEEE code (5 points)	_____
Discussion – complete analysis of case with logic/reasons (20 points)	_____
Organization and Clear Conclusion – (5 points)	_____
Knowledge and Mastery of Content – (5 points)	_____
Communication Effectiveness – delivery and PowerPoint quality (includes terminology, appearance, voice, physical, use of visuals, etc. )	
Team Member #1 (10 points)	_____
Team Member #2 (10 points)	_____
ORAL DEFENSE (30 points)	
Team Member #1 (15 points)	_____
Team Member #2 (15 points)	_____
TOTAL SCORE	_____/100

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### NAMES OF TEAM MEMBERS

NAME OF JUDGE

SIGNATURE OF JUDGE

TEAM RANK (Circle Choice)

First (5 points)

Second (4 points)

Third (3 points)

Fourth (2 points)

Fifth (1 point)

Other (No points)

TEAM POINTS

Each judge will rank the teams and award 5 points to first, 4 points to second, 3 points to third, 2 points to fourth, and 1 point to fifth. The judge's points awarded will be tallied and the winners determined by the scores. Ties will be resolved by majority vote of the judges. All questions of eligibility, adherence to rules, etc. will be resolved by majority vote of the judges.

*Material from IEEE Student Ethics Competition Guidelines and Requirements 2005*  
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## **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Code of Ethics**

We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

1. to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
2. to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
3. to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;
4. to reject bribery in all its forms;
5. to improve the understanding of technology, its appropriate application, and potential consequences;
6. to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
7. to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
8. to treat fairly all persons regardless of such factors as race, religion, gender, disability, age, or national origin;
9. to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;
10. to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

- Approved by the IEEE Board of Directors, February 2006

See <http://www.ieee.org/about/whatis/code.html>

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# IEEE STUDENT ETHICS COMPETITION CASE AND ANALYSIS FORMAT

## Case Criteria

The contest cases should meet the following criteria.

- Each case must contain multiple ethical questions that student can identify.
- Cases should not depend on specialized technical knowledge to make a determination.
- The ethical issues should not be intentionally vague, i.e. the results of the analysis should not require significant assumptions.
- Preferably, the anticipated analysis would not result in findings that all of the ethical questions have a negative or a positive result.

The recommended length of the case descriptions should not exceed one page. Also, the cases must contain all needed information to make a determination as no outside references are allowed in the contest.

## Analysis Format

CASE FACTS: Restatement of Relevant Facts

QUESTIONS: Summary of Ethical Questions

REFERENCES: Relevant Sections of the IEEE Code of Ethics

DISCUSSION: Analysis of Case. Any assumptions or special perspectives must be explicitly stated

CONCLUSION: Position Statement on Each Identified Ethical Question

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## IEEE STUDENT ETHICS COMPETITION SAMPLE CASES

### CASE DESCRIPTION

A graduating engineering student is interviewing with several companies for an entry-level position. He receives an attractive offer from company A. Since the job market is very competitive, he feels it unlikely that another company will give an offer, much less an attractive one. The student accepts company A's offer and returns a signed letter of acceptance which documents the terms of the position. However, he receives an offer from company B one week afterwards. This new opportunity has a higher salary, more benefits, better advancement prospects, and a more desirable location. It is significantly better in all respects. Since only one week has past since the first acceptance was returned and the new opportunity is clearly in his professional and financial interests, he tells company A that he has changed his mind and accepts the offer of company B. Company A does not express any criticism of the student's actions.

*Did the student act unethically?*

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### ETHICAL QUESTIONS TO BE IDENTIFIED BY STUDENTS

Is the student ethically bound to honor the signed letter of acceptance with company A?

Has company A been harmed by the student's action?

*Material from IEEE Student Ethics Competition Guidelines and Requirements 2005*

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## EXAMPLE ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OUTLINE FOR SAMPLE CASE

### CASE FACTS: Restatement of Relevant Facts

The student formally accepted a position in which all significant terms of employment were specified. The student backed out of this agreement to accept a second, more desirable offer.

### QUESTIONS: Summary of ethical questions

Is the student ethically bound to honor the signed letter of acceptance with company A?  
Has company A been harmed by the student's action?

### REFERENCES: Relevant sections of the IEEE code

*Preamble: ... to the highest ethical and professional conduct ...*

*9. to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action.*

### DISCUSSION: Analysis of case

The student did not act in good faith with the highest standards of conduct. He made a commitment to company A, which presumably was acted on by the company. The professional and financial self-interest of the student was no excuse. While the company probably has a legal case against the student, it has little to gain by pursuing litigation. Despite the short (one week) length of time, company A invested time and resources in processing employment paperwork and may have turned away other applicants for the position. The student thereby injured both the company and other potential employees.

### CONCLUSION: Position statement on the identified ethical questions

The student was ethically bound to honor the first acceptance. He had formally completed an agreement. Company A gave no cause for a change in this agreement. Company A potentially suffered harm in that other applicants for the position were turned away or found other employment.