

Professional and Scientific Conduct

- In Elliott's CSC395 course *Introduction to Reinforcement Learning and Multi-Agent Systems*, students discussed what it means to be professional and scientific. This document summarizes the discussion and has been updated since then. This doc serves as guidance for you to approach your work in this course.
- **Acknowledgments:** we would like to thank Jiyoung Chang and Mingi Lee (sorted by last name) for creating this document. This activity was inspired by Dr. Eikmeier's fantastic group work discussion that ran in the Spring of 2021.

In short, all actions and activities must be driven by [Integrity](#).

1. Professionalism.

- Encode information in a digestible structure and truthful manner.
- Use time management tools and be respectful of other peoples' time.
- Preparedness: make a thorough study of the required readings and materials while putting effort into bringing additional materials/ideas to contribute and extend ideas and deliverables.

2. Communication.

- Engage and encourage other people to speak.
- Acknowledge other people's ideas.
- Respect others and be friendly.
- Speak out for disagreements.
- Embrace diversity of ideas, culture, and approaches.
- Feel comfortable about it and seek help.

3. Ideas.

- Help and build a safe environment for people to feel comfortable sharing their ideas.
- Put mechanisms in place to protect and acknowledge each other's ideas.
- Exchange and share ideas when you feel safe to do so.
- Acknowledge other people's ideas/contributions, contribute to making them stronger, and be mindful of their privacy.

4. Openness.

- Respectfully provide feedback to help others see things from different angles.
- Be receptive to feedback and build a better version of yourself.
- Be mindful of providing and receiving feedback in ways that are not personal.

5. Accountability.

- Use and depict truthful data.
- Take the time to build and run your experiments with rigor.
- Embrace failure: be honest about it, find ways to use failure productively, and to foster potential successes.
- Be very mindful of plagiarism. (Avoid self-plagiarism as well.)
- Constantly check and analyze your approach and methods, chat with others to avoid bias.
- Be proactive in evaluating, questioning, and acknowledging GenAI use.

- Seek for mentors and help.

6. Ethics

- Be thoughtful about how the execution of tools you build will affect others and other cultures (observe a system-thinking approach to your actions).
- Avoid harm and aim for the public good – remember that your perspective may differ from others, so be proactive in taking into account where you are coming from (which “hats” you are wearing to make *such and such* decisions).
- Follow Grinnell College’s academic honesty and the [CS department’s Academic Integrity Policy](#) and observe and contribute to your group/environment.
- Observe codes such as the [ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#) and the [Data Science Code of Professional Conduct](#).