

Business Ethics

Objective

The Business Ethics event involves a team of two (2) participants analyzing a business situation containing an ethical dilemma, then presenting a resolution of the dilemma to a professional (judge) with experience in business.

Description

The Business Ethics event involves the participants' analysis of a business situation containing an ethical dilemma and the effectiveness of the participants' presentation. The case situation is typically presented in written form.

For the purposes of this event, an ethical dilemma will be defined as a situation where competing values are being weighed, and which can reasonably be argued both for and against. Case situations will not involve a question of whether a certain action (or lack of action) constitutes a violation of law (i.e. stealing), nor will the situation have a seemingly simple answer (i.e. taking credit for a co-worker's idea).

Based on the situation, the participants may be asked to assume the role of management/supervisory level personnel for an organization represented by the situation, or they may be acting as outside observers. The participants will deliver an oral presentation of their analysis of the problem, the best possible ways to resolve the dilemma, and their final resolution if appropriate, to one or more judges.

The position of the judge(s) will be determined by the specific case situation. The judge(s) may be representatives of an organization represented by the situation, or they may be acting as outside observers.

For international competition, the content to be evaluated is found in the standard Evaluation Form located in these Guidelines, with a possible one hundred (100) points. Preliminary round competition will consist of an evaluation of the presentation to the judge(s). Teams will be ranked by section and a pre-determined number of teams will be named finalists. Finalists will be given a different case situation and will make their presentation to a new judge or set of judges, who will evaluate each team and determine final rankings. The following guidelines will be applied to the presentations at the International Career Development Conference.

Learning Outcomes

Through the analysis of the case situation and the presentation of possible ways to resolve the problem, including their final resolution if appropriate, the participants will develop or reinforce the following areas in relation to business ethics:

- Applying decision-making, business principles and techniques to the specific situation with an ethical dilemma
- Analyzing a case situation, organizing thoughts and identifying resolutions to the ethical dilemma
- Demonstrating knowledge/understanding of ethical behavior within a business environment
- Organizing and communicating knowledge, ideas and concepts effectively for the area of business ethics
- Accomplishing objectives as a team