Course Description
Title of the Course: Professional Issues and Ethical Problems in Psychology

Aim of the course
Aim of the course: To deepen students’ understanding of professional ethics in the work of the psychologist which has been built on the foundation of ethics laid at the BA level and to clarify issues of professional socialization in “becoming a psychologist”. The purpose of the course is to provide a general ethical guidance to cover typical situations encountered by professional psychologists. The evolution of moral behaviours, history of professional psychologists’ ethical codes, fundamental ethical principles of psychologists, relationship between legal and ethical issues, and evaluative procedures and corrective actions in case of complaints about unethical conduct will be covered by lectures, problems and dilemmas emerging in the practical application of professional ethics will be discussed in seminars.

Learning outcome and competences
Knowledge:
- Legal and ethical regulation of psychological practice
- Learning the rules of professional ethics.
- In depth knowledge of national ethical code(s), and APA and EFPA codes
- Recognising ethical problems and dealing with them adequately.
- Ways of resolving ethical dilemmas
- Recognizing the limits of competency
- Rules of research and publication ethics

Attitude:
- Respect of the patients and their relatives
- Commitment to the principles of professional ethics.
- Sensitivity to ethical problems.
- Being able to approach the problems / dilemmas from others’ points of views
- Being open-minded and actively find ethically coherent solutions for various problems / dilemmas

Skills:
- Ability to apply ethical principles and rules.
- Ability to make thoughtful decisions on ethical problems / dilemmas
- Formulating, expressing, sharing and defending ethical points of views
- Discussing ethical dilemmas with colleagues / supervisors
- Using appropriate language, professional terms when discussing cases and other professional issues
- Recognizing the importance of appropriate self-care, managing emotional impact

Content of the course
Topics for the course
Ethical problem, ethical dilemma
Ethical questions in clinical psychology
Ethical and methodological dilemmas in social psychology
Ethics of psychology and ethical questions in psychotherapy
Research and publication ethics
The operation of the Institutional Research Ethics Committee
Relational issues
Financial issues
Competency
Rights and obligations in the work of the clinical psychologist; legal regulations for psychotherapy
Ethical questions in health psychology

Learning activities and learning methods
Information is provided in lecture form during the block classes, while instruction is practice-oriented in the specialization classes. Topics are discussed via movies, interviews and case examples through which to professional ethics topics to be actively raised, discussed, and related to other studies within psychology.

Evaluation of outcomes

Learning requirements, mode of evaluation, and criteria for evaluation:

The entire year will take a written examination on the material covered in the block classes and on the required reading for those classes. Attendance at block classes is compulsory. Students have the opportunity for a retake if they are unable to take the written examination on the first occasion or if they receive a failing grade. One of the conditions for completing the class is to take (or retake) the written examination and to earn a passing grade. Additional conditions for completing the course are to be agreed within each specialization. The final grade is based on the written examination grade and the average of the marks for the practice within the specialization.

Reading list

Compulsory reading list

- National Codes of Ethics.
- POPE, K. S. & VETTER, V. A. Ethical dilemmas encountered by members of the American Psychological Association: A national survey. Source: http://psychology.about.com/od/ethicalissues/
- http://www.kspope.com/

Recommended reading list


• USA Ethical code in psychology Source: [http://www.apa.org/ethics/code.html](http://www.apa.org/ethics/code.html)

• NUCASE Internet Resources: Click on StepForward and NUCASE resources (Library) [http://www.ethicaladvisory.com/nucase/](http://www.ethicaladvisory.com/nucase/)

• [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ3l1jgmYrY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ3l1jgmYrY)

• APA rules: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/16/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/16/)