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## Adding a Student Research Component to an Information Technology Ethics Course

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# ADDING A STUDENT RESEARCH COMPONENT TO AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ETHICS COURSE

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# IT Ethics Class

- Required Course for All IT Majors
- Excerpted Course Goals
  - Learn about the common practice in information technology profession;
  - Understand societal context and IT's impact on social matters;
  - Learn about IT ethical issues and professional responsibilities;



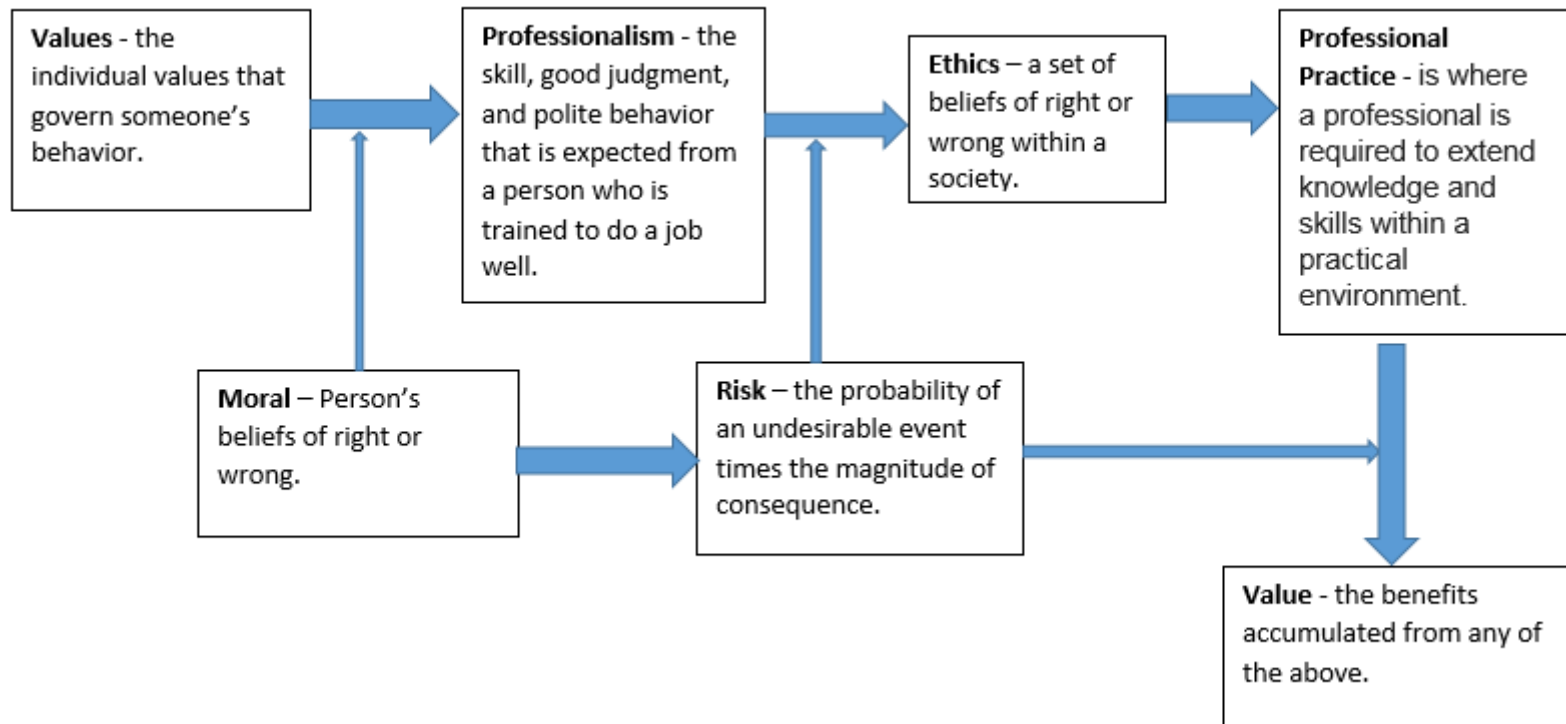
# Research Project, Overview

- Develop Causal Model for Interrelationships Among
  - Ethics
  - Morals
  - Professionalism
  - Professional Practice
  - Risk
  - Value
- Test Model Using Structural Equation Modeling Technique

# Research Project, Details

Activity	Work Product(s)
<b>Scholarly Readings and/or Real World Case Analysis</b>	Individual Summary Group Oral Presentation/Materials
<b>Latent Construct Introduction, Definitions, and Distinctions (Ethics, Morals, Professionalism, Risk, and Value)</b>	
<b>Model Development</b>	Model Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graphical Representation</li> <li>• Textual Support from Readings and Cases</li> </ul>
<b>Survey Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey Theme (e.g., Plagiarism, File Sharing, etc.)</li> <li>• Question Development</li> <li>• Survey Testing (Reliability &amp; Validity)</li> </ul>	Questionnaire Reliability & Validity Measures
<b>Survey Administration</b>	Survey Data
<b>Model Evaluation</b>	Research Report Results Presentation Material Oral Presentation of Results

# Example of Model Developed by Students



# Initial Results

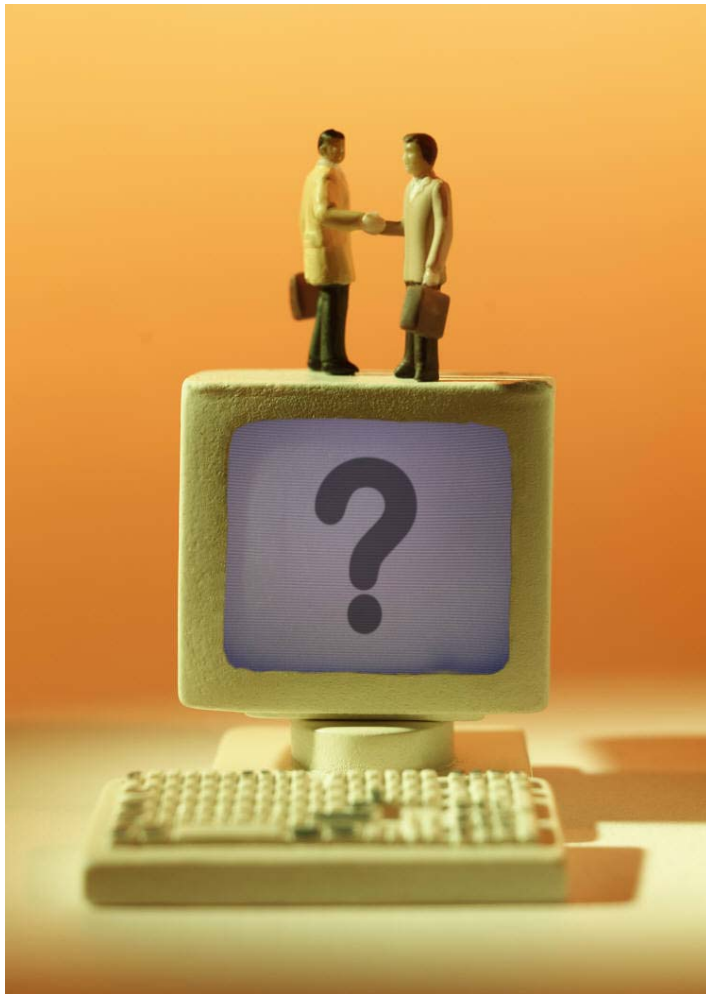
Descriptive Statistics					
Learning Outcomes (On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing no/minimum effect and 5 representing significant/maximum effect, rank the degree to which the research project contributed to each of the following)	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Understanding the course's main concepts	85	-1.0	5.0	4.000	1.0118
Understanding the relationships among the course's main concepts	85	-1.0	5.0	3.929	1.0211
Understanding the relationships among the course's main concepts and other information technology courses	85	-1.0	5.0	3.953	1.0680
Understanding the place of ethics in the real world	85	-1.0	5.0	3.835	1.1531
Understanding how to address information-technology problems from a scientific lense	85	-1.0	5.0	4.153	1.1496
Understanding how to become a Better Information Technology Professional	85	-1.0	5.0	4.047	1.3175

# Initial Results: Contrasting Project to other activities in the course

Descriptive Statistics						
Please assess the extent to which the following activities contributed to your overall learning in this course	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Aggregated Mean
Research Project: Developing Causal Model	85	-1.0	5.0	3.365	1.3170	3.4059
Research Project: Developing Questionnaire	85	1.0	5.0	3.447	1.2297	
Group_ Preparation/production of the Case Activity	85	1.0	5.0	4.141	.9899	4.0784
Group_ Leading and Moderating the Case Activity	85	1.0	5.0	4.094	.8947	
Group_ Leading and Moderating the Article Discussion	85	1.0	5.0	4.000	.9759	
Individual-Activity_ Listening to Class wide Discussion of Scholarly Articles	85	-1.0	5.0	3.718	1.2403	3.5435
Individual Activity_ Sitting for Exams	85	1.0	5.0	3.482	1.1403	
Individual-Activity_ Preparing for Exams	85	1.0	5.0	3.553	1.1599	
Individual-Activity_ Developing a Written Assessment of each Scholarly Article	85	-1.0	5.0	3.447	1.3319	
Individual-Activity_ Reading each Assigned Case	85	-1.0	5.0	3.518	1.2594	
Class-Activity_ Lecture	85	1.0	5.0	3.635	.9982	3.896
Class-Activity_ Small-Groups Analysis of Topical Video-Clips	85	1.0	5.0	3.918	.9662	
Class-Activity_ Participating in Class wide Case Activity	85	1.0	5.0	3.976	1.0116	
Class-Activity_ Small Groups Discussion of Scholarly Articles	85	1.0	5.0	3.941	1.0042	
Class-Activity_ Class wide Discussion of Scholarly Articles	85	1.0	5.0	4.012	1.0059	



# Questions



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