

Korea University's Charter of Ethics

Preamble

Korea University was established as the first private university in Korea under the ideal of “National Salvation through Education” to protect national sovereignty. With “Liberty, Justice, and Truth” as its motto, the university has been committed to fostering intellectuals and serving as the symbol of critical intellectuals throughout Korea’s industrialization and democratization. Now, the university seeks to realize a peaceful and happy society for all mankind by contributing to bringing everlasting peace to the Korean peninsula and promoting harmonious co-existence with neighboring countries.

To achieve the above, Korea University, as an educational institution, will fulfill its mission to advance mankind by fostering pragmatic talent possessing creativity, innovative thinking, and open-minded leadership. In addition, as a hub of academic research, the university will strive to achieve research excellence while strictly observing research ethics. Moreover, as an agent of social service, the university will contribute to balanced social development through promoting inclusiveness and fairness to those facing discrimination or alienation.

To fulfill these obligations, members of Korea University, as ethical agents, shall proceed by objectively engaging in self-examination based on empathy and consideration of others. Furthermore, within the university community, rational, healthy, ethical standards shall be established to enhance organizational integrity and regulate members’ roles and responsibilities as well as relationships with others. Members shall uphold these established ethical values and code of ethics in all of their undertakings. In pursuit of the foregoing, with the determination of the members of the university, Korea University thus proclaims this Charter of Ethics that shall serve as a milestone marking the forging of a new future that builds upon its century-old history to pave the way for this global university’s next millennium.

Code of Ethics for Faculty

The faculty of Korea University, as scholars seeking truth and creating knowledge, as educators fostering talent necessary for the nation and humanity, and as members of the university community and civil society, shall uphold this Code of Ethics.

First, all faculty, guided by the deep conviction of the ideals and values requisite for the advancement of knowledge, shall engage in creative research activities. They shall practice intellectual honesty and integrity, exercise critical self-discipline and respect both the freedom of inquiry and the diversity of academic exploration.

Second, all faculty shall dedicate themselves to teaching and advising students. They shall demonstrate respect for students as individuals, shall not discriminate among them, and shall endeavor to protect their freedom of learning and thought. They shall strive to ensure that their assessments of students are fair and recognize the value of their scholarly assistance.

Third, all faculty shall uphold and defend the honor and commonwealth of the university. They shall observe the stated regulations of the university, provided said regulations do not contravene academic freedom, and cooperate with the university administration. All faculty shall place priority on their responsibilities within the university when considering undertaking activities external to the university.

Fourth, as members of academia, all faculty shall respect the academic freedom of colleagues and strive to be objective and fair in their evaluation of colleagues' academic achievements. They shall not discriminate against, defame, or harass colleagues.

Fifth, as members of society, all faculty possess the right to express their opinions on various social issues and participate in political activity outside of the classroom. In so doing, however, they shall preserve their conscience and dignity as scholars. When they speak or act as individuals, they shall avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting on behalf of their department, division, college, school, institute or university.

Code of Ethics for Staff

The staff of Korea University, as professionals conducting university administration at Korea University, as members of the university community fostering talent for the nation and humanity and as members of civil society, shall uphold this Code of Ethics.

First, all staff shall both support the university's educational ideals and vision and strive to achieve the university's goals by exercising their responsibilities with creativity and diligence. They shall strive to gain expertise in their areas of educational administration and enhance their competence through continuous self-improvement.

Second, all staff shall exert efforts to both improve their sense of professionalism and pride as pivotal role players in university administration and contribute to creating a more conducive educational and research environment to foster leaders able to lead change and innovation.

Third, all staff shall perform their duties in an equitable, efficient manner based on trust and cooperation with all members of the university and observe all relevant laws and regulations in their undertakings.

Fourth, all staff shall strive to uphold the highest ethical standards, uphold individual integrity, and preserve and enhance the reputation of the university. They shall maintain integrity and transparency according to standards set by society and not pursue individual profit while engaged in their professional duties.

Fifth, all staff shall engage in exemplary conduct in activities within and outside the university. They shall contribute to university development by setting an example for other universities in terms of administration and a forward-looking vision.

Code of Ethics for Students

The students of Korea University, as critical drivers responsible for the development of the nation and humanity, as individuals devoted to studies and who must cultivate intelligence as well as spiritual and physical potential, and as members of the university community and civil society, shall uphold this Code of Ethics.

First, all students shall both support the university's educational ideals and vision and devote themselves to creative academic pursuits with diligence, integrity, and passion.

Second, all students shall be committed to academic pursuits and enhance their competence in relevant fields, so as to contribute to the advancement of civilization and the enrichment of culture.

Third, all students, as cultured individuals who have received higher education, shall both observe the university's rules and relevant regulations and perform academic duties with both a scholarly and ethical conscience.

Fourth, all students shall respect the rights of others, embrace diversity, and spread peace by acknowledging differences in religion, beliefs, and culture.

Fifth, all students shall strive to become key individuals in the development of the nation and human society based on sound values and a mature sense of civic awareness.