

Module: IT Law and Ethics 261

Module name:	IT Law and Ethics 261
Code:	ILE261
NQF level:	6
Type:	Core – Diploma in Information Technology (all stream)
Contact Time:	36 hours
Structured time:	6 hours
Self-directed time:	18 hours
Notional hours:	60 hours
Credits:	6
Prerequisites:	None

Purpose

This module focuses on developing an understanding of the inherent complexities underlying laws and ethics as it applies to the information technology industry. Students will be expected to understand, interpret, and apply established ethical concepts to defined real world situations. The teaching and learning activities consist of several pedagogical methodologies to stimulate self-reflection and critical thinking. A case study-oriented, applicative approach combined with exercises and formal lectures on theoretical concepts will aid in achieving the above-mentioned outcomes. Students will also be researching further concepts and implications of ethics through a compulsory assignment.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion this module, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the main areas of laws and ethics as it applies to the IT industry including key terms, concepts, and facts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of intellectual property rights, the basic principles of copyright, data protection, freedom of information ICT government Acts in SA and other laws and license agreements in the software development market.
- Evaluate, select and apply ethical principles and best practices in investigation or application processes within the context of ethically sensitive topics such as privacy, crime, free speech, software development, and intellectual property.
- Identify, analyse and solve problems related to complex ethical quandaries in familiar contexts.
- Demonstrate an understanding of different forms of knowledge, schools of thought and forms of explanation within the field of ethics as well as techniques and awareness of knowledge production processes.
- Demonstrate the ability to make decisions and act appropriately regarding ethical issues in both familiar and new contexts, demonstrating an understanding of the multifaceted nature of ethics.

Assessment


Assessment is performed using a variety of instruments:

- Continuous evaluation of theoretical work through written assignments, formative tests, and a summative test.
- Continuous evaluation through tracking of progress, offering support, guidance and provision of constant stream of opportunities to prove mastery of subject material and pursuing more challenging work as they master the basics.
- Final assessment through an examination.

Teaching and Learning

Learning materials

Prescribed books (EBSCO)

 **Northcutt, S., Madden, C., Welt, C. (2004). *IT Ethics Handbook*. Syngress. [ISBN: 9780080478821-003]**

McClendon, JW. (2012). *Ethics*. Baylor University Press. [ISBN: 9781602586574]

Learning activities

Learning activities

Learning will be facilitated by the lecturer with student centred activities that involve problem-based learning where pupils are presented with challenges that replicate the situation in the real-world environment. This will be achieved through a combination between presentation of theoretical concepts, guided exercises, group work and discussions during the module.

Notional learning hours

Contact	Distance	Other	Type of learning activities	% Learning
y	y	n	Lectures (face-to-face, limited interaction or technologically mediated)	40%
y	y	n	Tutorials: individual groups	20%
n	y	n	Syndicate groups	10%
n	y	n	Independent self-study of standard texts and references (study guides, books, journal articles)	10%
n	y	n	Independent self-study of specially prepared materials (case studies, multi-media, etc.	20%

Syllabus

- Overview of intellectual property rights
- Basic principles of Copyright

- The law of confidences
- Patent Law
- Design Law
- Trademark, passing off and malicious falsehood
- Criminal Offences and Intellectual property
- ICT Governmental Act's in SA
- Information Technology Contracts
- Software license agreement
- Information and Communications technology (ICT) Crime
- Data protection and freedom of information
- Key terms in ethics
- Corporate Ethics and social responsibility
- Privacy
- Freedom of speech