



**Athabasca
University**

**Ethical behavior is doing the right thing
when no one else is watching - even
when doing the wrong thing is legal.
(Aldo Leopold)**

Your attitudes to ethical behaviour



1. Actions in relation to the rules, laws and regulations

Athabasca University's rules:

- Academic Integrity
- Research Ethics

2. Action in relation to what you believe is right.
Comes from your community and society, aka morals

Personal Morals

- Outcome is most important (*teleological*)
- Intent is most important (*deontological*)
- Importance depends on the other factors in a situation (*relativistic*)
- Inner guidance is most important (*virtues*)



Academic Integrity

Applies to everything you do as a student at AU.

AU encourages a culture of INTEGRITY.

Regulations are clear, disciplinary process is thorough, and penalties are applied.

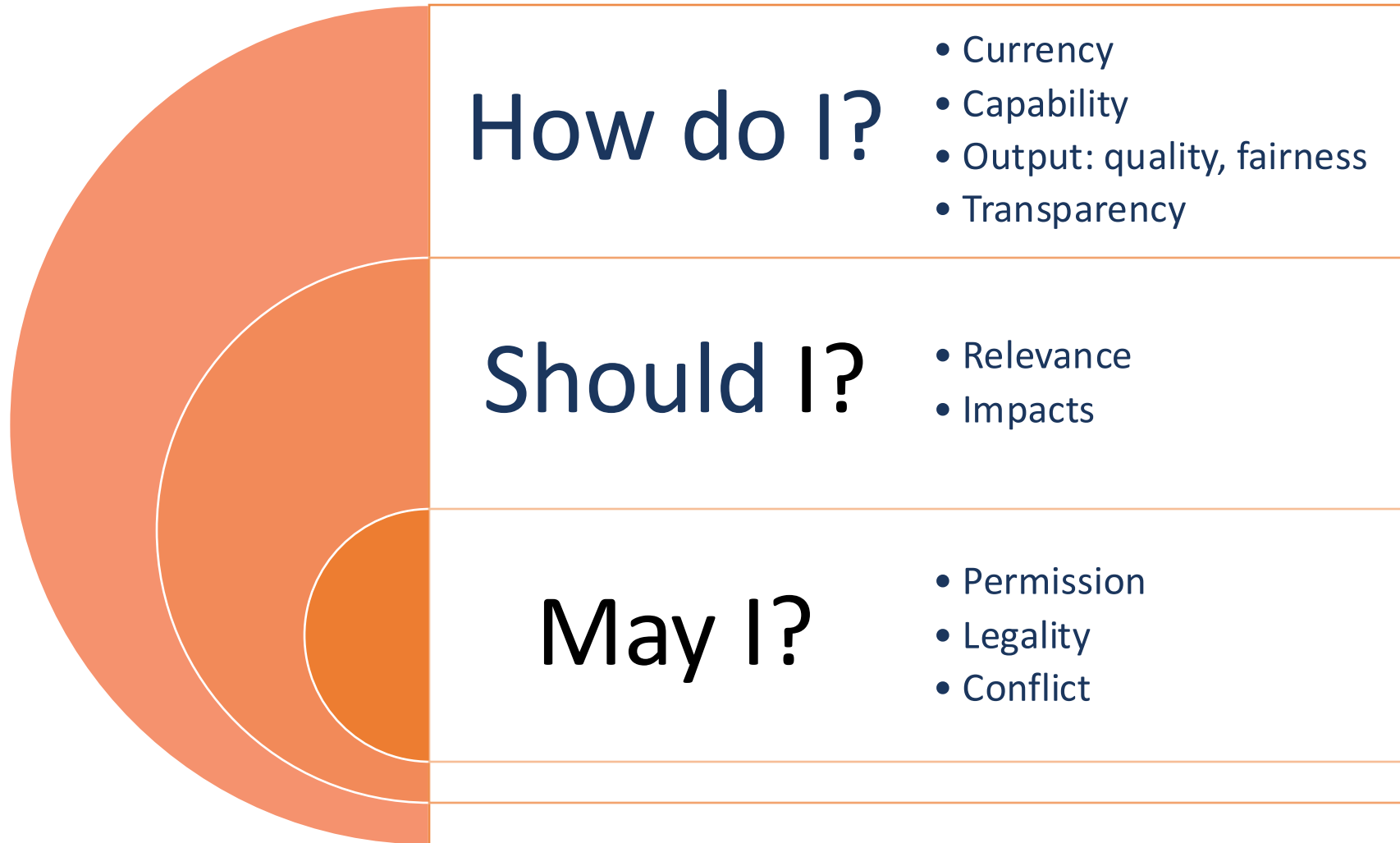
- Read more at Student Code of Conduct and Rights to Appeals (<http://calendar.athabascau.ca/undergrad/current/student-code/academic-misconduct-offences.php>)
- Academic offences include:
 1. admissions offences
 2. plagiarism
 3. cheating
 4. collusion
 5. unauthorized use of Athabasca University materials
 6. misrepresentation of facts and fraud
 7. aiding another in committing an academic offence



Avoid academic Integrity issues

- Relativistic beliefs are most likely to get you in trouble ->
 - **It's better than missing the deadline**
 - **It's better than getting a low score**
 - **It's OK just this once because ...**
- What to do ->
 - **Fix any time management issues**
 - **Plan to work on the course, factor in life needs**
 - **Ahead of the problem - extenuating circumstances (ill health, external circumstances etc...)**
 - **Appeals exist after the fact, take time but can help understand complexity of the issue!**

AI tools may support learning work, but not do the work of learning.





Research Ethics

Ethics applied your research process –

Fabrication, Falsification, or Plagiarism

- Start your research (subject) ethics checks **BEFORE** your research (*this is a rule*).
- Research Ethics Portal at <http://research.athabasca.ca/portal/index.php>
- Lots of useful information about:
 1. what needs ethics approval (and thus what does not)
 - Involves humans (alive, dead or parts of); public figures (private data); animals; secondary data (i.e, collected for another reason and not anonymized); quality assurance or evaluation research questions. <<Interviews and surveys involving people need approval.>>
 2. application process
 - Well structured online form
 - Concerned with respect for the **person, impact of research, fairness of research**
 - Full review for human subjects, document review for other.



What doesn't need REB review and approval?

- Research about individuals in the public arena using only publicly available or accessible records without contact with the individual/s.
- Research involving naturalistic observation in public venues.
- Quality assurance studies, program evaluations, performance reviews, and testing within normal educational and/or organizational requirements, to be used for assessment and/or improvement purposes; and there is no research question involved.
- Research based on review of published/publicly reported literature.
- Research involving secondary use of data (Article 5.5) which is provided without any identifier or group of identifiers which would allow attribution of private information to an individual.
- Consulting, unless carried out under the auspices of the university.

Course on Research Ethics (CORE) - Government Research Panel on Ethics provides training for all (faculty and students) -

https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/education_tutorial-didacticiel.html





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