

# American Counseling Association

## ACA Ethics Committee Annual Graduate Student Ethics Competition

The purpose of the American Counseling Association's Graduate Student Ethics Competition is to educate the members of the association regarding ethical issues, one of the responsibilities of the ACA Ethics Committee. The competition serves as an opportunity to engage masters and doctoral students in critically analyzing a potential ethical scenario and creating an appropriate ethical decision making plan to respond to the ethical dilemma.

### **Competition Structure and Rules**

The members of the ethics committee create two mock ethical scenarios, one for masters students and one for doctoral students, addressing a current ethical issue facing the profession of counseling.

### **Teams**

1. Each counselor education program is allowed to have one team of masters level students and one team of doctoral level students enter the competition.
2. Only one team of masters students may apply from each counselor education program, even if the counselor education program has more than one specialty area.
3. Only one team of doctoral students may apply from each counselor education program.
4. Masters and doctoral student teams will be judged separately. Teams must not be mixed level.
5. Counselor education programs with separate and distinct campuses may have a masters level team representing each campus. (Separate and distinct campuses are considered those that have stand-alone programs, not a single counselor education program that has multiple satellite campuses. For example, these campuses would have one dedicated representative in an accreditation process, representing multiple satellite campuses.)

### **Faculty**

6. Each team must have a faculty member who will serve as an administrative contact person for the counselor education program.
7. The faculty must be an ACA member in good standing.
8. The role of the faculty contact person is one of a representative of the team's counseling education program only and faculty members should not act as a consultants in this competition.
9. The faculty member's email address must be their own, not that of a student.

## Students

10. Teams are limited to having either a minimum of 3 students, or a maximum of 4 students.
11. Each team member must be currently enrolled (in good standing) in a masters or doctoral level program in counselor education and must be enrolled for a minimum of three credits during the term when the competition will take place.
12. Each team member must be an ACA member in good standing. Team members may submit membership applications online when they submit their competition registration form.

\*\*\* Please note that simply registering on the web site to generate an ID number does not constitute membership. For more information about membership contact [membership@counseling.org](mailto:membership@counseling.org) or call 800-347-6647. \*\*\*

## Registration

13. Incomplete registrations will not be accepted. All students and the faculty member must provide membership numbers at the time of registration.

## Resources

14. Teams should utilize the *2014 ACA Code of Ethics* and information from relevant counseling literature for their essay.
15. Utilization of outside sources, URLs, and articles are encouraged, but the graduate student team members may not consult with anyone outside of their 3 to 4 member team, including their faculty contact or other members of their faculty.

## Submissions

16. Submission instructions will be sent to the identified faculty member.
17. All submissions should be sent in PDF format.
18. Documents submitted should be named for the school and level. For example, a masters team from ACA State University could submit a document named "ACA State U - Masters.pdf". If we cannot determine from **the document itself** which school submitted it, then the submission will be invalid.
19. By submitting an essay, teams agree to allow their names to be posted online, to appear in *Counseling Today*, and for their responses to be posted online.

## Role of the ACA Ethics Committee

In addition to creating one scenario for masters-level teams and one scenario for doctoral-level teams, ACA Ethics Committee members will serve as judges for the competition.

Ethics Committee members may not serve as the faculty contact for teams from their institutions. Furthermore, should an Ethics Committee member be associated with an institution that registers a student team for the competition, that Ethics Committee member will recuse themselves from judging that particular submission.

## Prizes

Prizes recognizing the top three masters teams and top three doctoral teams will be presented to the winners during the National Awards Ceremony. In addition, one masters team and one doctoral team will receive an honorable mention. The names and institutions of the winning masters and doctoral teams will be published in *Counseling Today* and posted online, and the 1<sup>st</sup> place essays will be posted online.

First place: Each team member will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the ACA Bookstore and a certificate. Each member will also receive a letter of recognition.

Second place: Each team member will receive a \$75 gift certificate to the ACA Bookstore and a certificate. Each member will also receive a letter of recognition.

Third place: Each team member will receive a \$50 gift certificate to the ACA Bookstore and a certificate. Each member will also receive a letter of recognition.

Honorable Mention: each team member will receive a letter of recognition and a certificate.

In addition, all members of winning teams are invited to attend the ACA Annual Conference Expo to receive recognition at the National Awards Ceremony.