

**NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY AND POLYTECHNIC  
QUALIFICATIONS IN INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

**PRESCRIPTION: ET600 ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM**

AIM OF MODULE:	To equip students with the conceptual skills and knowledge that enables them to make ethically sound judgements and decisions according to a chosen set of ethical standards.
CREDITS:	7
STUDENT LEARNING HOURS:	70
CONTENT REVISED:	1998
PRESCRIPTION EXPIRY DATE:	Nov 2011
NOTE:	THIS IS A COMPULSORY DIPICT L5 MODULE

**Level and Assessment Schedule**

TOPICS	Highest Skill Level				Suggested Assessment Percentage
	R	C	A	P	
1. Ethical Behaviour		*			10
2. Codes of Ethics		*			20
3. Legislation		*			20
4. IT Issues			*		20
5. Making Ethical Decisions				*	20
6. Treaty of Waitangi		*			10
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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student will:

- C 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of ethical behaviour.
- C 2. Discuss a selection of professional codes of ethics, particularly those which information technology personnel are likely to practice.
- C 3. Comment on legislation which relates to the information technology industry.
- A 4. Evaluate the main ethical considerations facing information technology personnel.
- P 5. Demonstrate an ability to formulate ethically sound decisions.
- A 6. Recognise the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi to an information technology professional by being able to identify and discuss current treaty-based issues.

## CONTENT

### 1. Ethical Behaviour

- Factors influencing individual behaviour.
- Role and nature of ethical behaviour.
- Criteria for professional conduct.

### 2. Codes Of Ethics

- Codes of ethics verses codes of practice.
- Examples of codes will be discussed.
- Impact of codes on individual behaviour.
- Common elements.
- NZCS code of ethics.

### **3. Legislation**

- Impact of laws.
- Individual pieces of legislation that relate to the IT environment. Examples may include:
  - Fair Trading and Consumer Guarantees acts
  - Privacy Act
  - Official Information Act (and amendments)
  - Copyright Act
  - Health and Safety in Employment Act (and amendments)
  - Human Rights Act
- Licensing agreements.

### **4. IT Issues**

- The main ethical considerations facing information technology personnel will be evaluated. Examples may include:
  - software piracy
  - hacking
  - viruses and malicious intent
  - sharing/matching data
  - cloning/reverse engineering
  - scanning
  - Internet pornography/crime
  - intellectual property
  - company ownership vs personal knowledge

### **5. Ethical Decisions**

- Decisions should be able to be justified.
- Decisions should be ethically sound.

### **6. Treaty Of Waitangi**

- Identify and discuss current treaty-based issues such as:
  - national significance
  - articles identified
  - differences in translation
  - differences in interpretation
  - impact on society and, in particular, the economy

## **NOTES FOR TUTORS**

Typical teaching and learning methods should include:

- case studies
- simulated exercises
- personal research
- discussion