

UON ETHICAL FRAMEWORK



Universities are committed to the discovery and transmission of knowledge, wisdom and learning for the betterment of society. With the capacity to address humankind's greatest challenges, universities advance on the basis of merit in an environment of common endeavour and mutual respect. As occasional 'critics of society' universities are bound to draw on evidence and reason.

Members of a university are obliged to do the same – with a professional responsibility to look beyond self-interest and personal conviction in order to build and sustain their institution's capacity to realise its distinctive purpose, values and principles.

To this end, the UON Ethical Framework is to guide and support decision-making at all levels. It is intended to be a 'compass' for navigating the University's complex ethical landscape; not a 'check list', or 'recipe' for making decisions.

When making decisions on behalf of the University, the 'standard for judgement' lies in this Ethical Framework rather than the personal beliefs of any individual.

The Framework must be read and applied as a whole – as no single element has priority over another. The Framework will not eliminate ambiguity – values and principles will compete from time to time. Thus, decision making requires the need for the exercise of judgement rather than 'mere compliance'.

VISION

UON stands as a global leader distinguished by a commitment to equity and excellence and to creating a better future for its regions through a focus on innovation and impact.

VALUES

Values structure choices between competing options. In realising the UON's vision we will prioritise the institutional values of:

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

We provide opportunities for people with ability, regardless of their background and experiences. We lead in providing education for Indigenous Australians.

EXCELLENCE

We deliver the highest quality in everything we do and benchmark ourselves against the world's best.

ENGAGEMENT

Our staff, students and alumni are a resource for our whole community. We are partners and collaborators in world-class research, teaching and learning, and our skilled graduates contribute to our regions, Australia and the world.

INTEGRITY

We are open, ethical, rigorous and committed to the highest standards in academic enquiry. We are champions of academic freedom and professional responsibility.

INNOVATION

We challenge standard practice and received wisdom. We are world leaders in generating new knowledge and translating innovative ideas into real benefits to society.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are leaders in sustainability. We make a significant contribution to the economic, social and environmental capacity of our communities.

PRINCIPLES

Principles provide a 'standard of judgement' against which to test the quality of decisions. In realising UON's vision and giving effect to its values we will:

- Act on the basis of sound reasons, solid evidence and impartial judgement – even when our findings are unpopular
- Aim to do good and minimise harm
- Aspire to deserve the trust and good opinion of the communities we serve as a university
- Be accountable for the choices we make
- Do what we say we will do
- Maintain the sustainability of our Institution
- Promote safety and wellbeing
- Respect the intrinsic dignity of people

CODE OF CONDUCT

newcastle.edu.au/codeofconduct

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

newcastle.edu.au/policiesandprocedures

EXISTING ETHICAL ARRANGEMENTS

• Animal care and ethics newcastle.edu.au/acec
• Human Research ethics newcastle.edu.au/hrec