Ethics Education at Dartmouth College

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Dartmouth College

“...a superb undergraduate residential college with the intellectual character of a university, featuring thriving research and first-rate graduate and professional programs”

- **Founded**: 1769
- **Affiliation**: Ivy League
- **Students**: Approximately 4,100 undergraduate, 1,700 graduate
- **Divisions**: Undergraduate college with more than 40 departments and programs; graduate schools of arts and sciences, medicine, engineering, and business
- **Faculty**: 607 Tenured/tenure track, 995 total
Research at Dartmouth

§ Classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a "research university with very high research activity."
§ Sponsored research attracted, FY 2009: $168.6 million

§ By the numbers:
§ 477 Arts and Sciences
§ 111 Engineering
§ 68 MALS
§ 50 MPh
§ 1000+ undergrads
§ Coming: Masters of Healthcare Delivery Sciences
Ethics program sponsors at Dartmouth

- Ethics Institute (since 1982)
  - Aine Donovan, Executive Director, Ethics Institute
  - Provides support for ethics programs
- Masters of Engineering Management
  - Thayer School of Engineering/Tuck School of Business
  - New course: Professional Ethics
- Graduate Studies Office
  - Brian Pogue, Dean, Graduate Studies
  - Ethics training for 1st year graduate students
- Office of Sponsored Research
  - Jill Mortali, Director
  - Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training
Dartmouth Ethics Institute

“Morality must be a persistent concern of all professions and all professional schools. Indeed by definition one of the essential ingredients of a profession is the creation and use of an explicit set of ethics governing individual and collective behavior of the professionals in that field.”

- **Founded**: 1982
- **Executive Director**: Aine Donovan
- **Mission**: to foster the study and teaching of ethics throughout the Dartmouth community, at the undergraduate, graduate and professional schools.
- **Members**: ~200
- **Programs**: interdisciplinary college courses that are team-taught by faculty who are committed to ethics education; innovative federal grants; films; panel discussions; essay competitions, graduate ethics training
Professional Ethics for MEMs (Thayer)

§ Student population from diverse cultures coming for short time to Dartmouth on their way to engineering/business career paths
§ Piloted Spring 2010 as part of Professional Skills curriculum
§ Combination of Business and Engineering ethics
  § Honor code – “What should I do if I see…?”
  § How do companies manage ethics
  § Case studies that they can relate to: job search, early career ethical dilemmas
  § Review some company values/ethical codes
§ Pilot participants actually asked for MORE than the three hours allocated in the pilot
1st Year Grad Students Ethics Program

- Ethics session in graduate student orientation
  - the FIRST event they attend
  - Faculty panel participation signals importance
- Ethics Survey – online review and acknowledgement of Honor Principle, Code of Conduct, and “Sources and Citation at Dartmouth College”
- Four “Train the trainer” ethics sessions
  - Professionalism in the workplace
  - Mentoring
  - Authorship and Peer Review
  - Conducting Research and Data Handling
- Education of first year students
  - Performed by last year’s trainers – Grad students/post-docs/faculty
  - Tailored to each department’s needs
- Science Ethics Colloquium (not every year)
Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

§ Provides compliance with NSF requirements
§ PI is responsible to ensure and mentor
§ Graduate Students
  § Take (mandatory) the 1st year Grad Students Ethics Program
§ Post Docs (“Research Assistants”). Choice of:
  1. 1st year Grad Students Ethics Program Educator class
  2. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)
  3. 90-minute presentation provided by Office of Sponsored Projects
§ Undergraduates
  § Choice of 2 or 3 above as decided with PI
Success Factors/Challenges

Success factors

- Show institutional support
  - Faculty visibility
  - A culture of mentorship
  - Visibility of policies and governance bodies
  - Senior level sponsorship
- Attract grad students to a new teaching experience (ethics!)
- Offer a combination of online and face-to-face interaction

Challenges

- Pace of scholarly life
- Pressure to Publish
- Increasing administrative demands
- Consistent faculty engagement
Additional Resources

- RCR for Engineering
  - Jason Borenstein borenstein@gatech.edu
- CITI – minimal cost and great way to get started
- ORI website http://ori.dhhs.gov/
  - Research on research integrity
  - Sample policies: http://ori.dhhs.gov/policies/ori_policies.shtml
- Post-doc Association – RCR Toolkit
  http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/publications/rcr/rcr-toolkit
THANK YOU!