

# ETHICAL REASONING VALUE RUBRIC



The VALUE rubrics were developed by teams of faculty experts representing colleges and universities across the United States through a process that examined many existing campus rubrics. The expectations articulated in all 15 of the VALUE rubrics can and should be translated into the language of individual campuses, disciplines, and positions learning at all undergraduate levels within a basic framework of expectations such that evidence of learning can be shared nationally for success.

## Definition

Ethical Reasoning is reasoning about right and wrong human conduct. It requires students to be able to assess their own ethical values in a variety of settings, think about how different ethical perspectives might be applied to ethical dilemmas and consider the ramifications that evolve as they practice ethical decision-making skills and learn how to describe and analyze positions on ethical issues.

## Framing Language

This rubric is intended to help faculty evaluate work samples and collections of work that demonstrate student learning about ethics. As students turn what they've learned in the classroom into action, pragmatically it would be difficult, if not impossible, to judge whether or not they are applying their learning in real-world situations. What can be evaluated using a rubric is whether students have the intellectual tools to make ethical choices.

The rubric focuses on five elements: Ethical Self Awareness, Ethical Issue Recognition, Understanding Different Ethical Perspectives, Evaluation of Different Ethical Perspectives/Concepts. Students' Ethical Self Identity evolves as they practice ethical decision-making skills and apply them to ethical issues. Presumably, they will choose ethical actions when faced with ethical issues.

## Glossary

- **Core Beliefs:** Those fundamental principles that consciously or unconsciously influence one's ethical conduct and ethical thinking. Ethical responses. Core beliefs can reflect one's environment, religion, culture or training. A person may or may not choose to act on their core beliefs.

# ETHICAL REASONING VALUE RUBRIC



**Definition**

Ethical Reasoning is reasoning about right and wrong human conduct. It requires students to be able to assess their own ethical values and the social context of problems, recognize ethical issues in a variety of settings, think about how different ethical perspectives might be applied to ethical dilemmas, and consider the ramifications of alternative actions. Students' ethical self-identity evolves as they practice ethical decision-making skills and learn how to describe and analyze positions on ethical issues.

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	Capstone 4	Milestones		Benchmark 1
		3	2	
<b>Ethical Self-Awareness</b>	Student discusses in detail/analyzes both core beliefs and the origins of the core beliefs and discussion has greater depth and clarity.	Student discusses in detail/analyzes both core beliefs and the origins of the core beliefs.	Student states both core beliefs and the origins of the core beliefs.	Student states either their core beliefs or articulates the origins of the core beliefs but not both.
<b>Understanding Different Ethical Perspectives/Concepts</b>	Student names the theory or theories, can present the gist of said theory or theories, and accurately explains the details of the theory or theories used.	Student can name the major theory or theories she/he uses, can present the gist of said theory or theories, and attempts to explain the details of the theory or theories used, but has some inaccuracies.	Student can name the major theory she/he uses, and is only able to present the gist of the named theory.	Student only names the major theory she/he uses.
<b>Ethical Issue Recognition</b>	Student can recognize ethical issues when presented in a complex, multilayered (gray) context AND can recognize cross-relationships among the issues.	Student can recognize ethical issues when issues are presented in a complex, multilayered (gray) context OR can grasp cross-relationships among the issues.	Student can recognize basic and obvious ethical issues and grasp (incompletely) the complexities or interrelationships among the issues.	Student can recognize basic and obvious ethical issues but fails to grasp complexity or interrelationships.
<b>Application of Ethical Perspectives/Concepts</b>	Student can independently apply ethical perspectives/concepts to an ethical question, accurately, and is able to consider full implications of the application.	Student can independently apply ethical perspectives/concepts to an ethical question, accurately, but does not consider the specific implications of the application.	Student can apply ethical perspectives/concepts to an ethical question, independently (to a new example) and the application.	