

## Ethics and Integrity Component of Graduate Education in Urban Affairs and Planning, School of Public and International Affairs

The Urban Affairs and Planning program will implement the ethics and integrity (E&I) requirements associated with CGSP Resolution 2012-13B by expanding E&I content in currently required courses in the master's (MURP) and doctoral (PGG) degree programs. This content, described below, will add to already-existing E&I coverage in some cases. For example, MURP students already receive exposure to the ethical principles and code of ethics of two professional bodies, the American Planning Association and American Institute of Certified Planners ([www.planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples.htm](http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples.htm) and [www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm](http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm), respectively), and this will augment new material provided to satisfy the E&I requirement.

All MURP students currently must enroll in UAP 5174 (Theory and Practice of Planning), while PGG students currently must enroll in SPIA 6006 (Higher Education and Globalization in Democratic Societies) to satisfy degree requirements. Each of these courses will add the following topics to meet E&I needs:

- 1) Plagiarism and other violations of the Graduate Honor Code
- 2) Proper use of professional conventions in citation of existing research and scholarship, accurate reporting and ownership of findings, and acknowledgement of contributions to the work
- 3) Ethical standards in teaching, mentoring, and professional activities
- 4) Available avenues for reporting alleged misconduct
- 5) Appropriate research protocols involving human and animal subjects

The PGG program, with a stronger emphasis on research activities and academic training, additionally will include in the required SPIA 6006 course:

- 6) Guidelines for determination of authorship
- 7) Conflicts of interest
- 8) Collaborative research
- 9) Peer review

Faculty teaching UAP 5174 and SPIA 6006 will cover topics 1 through 4 above in class meetings with mandatory attendance. Students in both courses will be required to complete the VT Human Subjects Protections Tutorial and successfully pass the certification quiz to satisfy topic 5. For topics 6 through 9, SPIA 6006 students will be required to take online modules in the "Responsible Conduct of Research for Social, Behavioral, and Education Sciences" course offered by CITI, the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (Virginia Tech subscribes to CITI, making its web-based training materials at [www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org) free to all faculty and graduate students). Four separate modules in the course cover topics 6 through 9. In addition, the "Mentoring" and "Research Misconduct" modules will bolster topics 3 and 4.

Because all Urban Affairs and Planning graduate students must pass UAP 5174 and/or SPIA 6006 to receive their degree(s), the Plan of Study approval process will serve as the enforcement mechanism for Urban Affairs and Planning and the Graduate School to ensure adequate participation in ethics and integrity activities.