

Business Student Ethics: Perception vs. Behavior

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper reports on a study of business student s, their perceptions of ethical behavior, and their actual activities reflecting those perceptions. Considerable research on business ethics ties classroom preparation to later professional attitudes. This study looks directly at student rankings of perceived unethical classroom behaviors, comparing those rankings with those reporting student participation in these same unethical behaviors. Statistical analysis suggests there is a link between the two and that students are more hesitant to engage in behaviors they perceive as being the most unethical.

Keywords: Ethics, Cheating, Personal value structure, Business students