



CAATE Code of Ethics

Preamble

CAATE Commission's Code of Ethics is rooted in professional core values that are congruent with the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) Code of Good Practice. While institutional autonomy is valued, it is to be exercised in light of the boundaries delineated in the accreditation *Standards*. CAATE's values and emerging principles are intentionally aspirational and include: 1) honesty, 2) respect, 3) accountability and responsibility, 4) integrity, and 5) fairness. The ethical values and emerging principles serve to guide the conduct and decision making of the Commission's practice and its members. CAATE members are those individuals serving in any CAATE capacity including members of the Executive Council (i.e., Commissioners), members of CAATE Committees, and Site Visitors only when acting officially on behalf of or representing the CAATE.

Principle I – Honesty

The CAATE Commissioners and its members shall be truthful and transparent in a relationship with institutions.

1. CAATE commissioners and its members shall honor explicit commitments.
2. CAATE commissioners and its members shall provide accurate and truthful information.
3. CAATE commissioners and its members shall admit and rectify errors in an expeditious manner.
4. CAATE commissioners and its members shall focus on its mission, goals, and objectives, and conduct its operations in a trustworthy manner.

Principle II – Respect

The CAATE Commissioners and its members shall convey a courteous and professional regard toward institutions.

1. CAATE commissioners and its members shall acknowledge and honor the institution's autonomy, multifaceted relationships, and culture and processes.
2. CAATE commissioners and its members shall work with issues of institutional autonomy in light of the commitment to mutual accountability implied by participation in accreditation.
3. CAATE commissioners and its members shall honor ATEP diversity and its interdisciplinary nature.
4. CAATE commissioners and its members shall not discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, and will honor the institution's culture and processes.

Principle III – Accountability and Responsibility

The CAATE Commissioners and its members are trustworthy and shall carry out their duties within the Commission's legal and ethical limits.

1. CAATE commissioners and its members shall focus on the educational qualities of the institution, and in doing so:
 - a. Recognizes that teaching and learning, not accredited status, are the primary purposes of institutions and programs.
 - b. Respects the expertise and aspirations for high achievement already present and functioning in institutions and programs.
 - c. Keeps the accreditation process as efficient and cost-effective as possible by minimizing the use of visits and reports, and by eliminating, whenever possible, duplication of effort between accreditation and other review processes.
 - d. Works cooperatively with other accrediting bodies to avoid conflicting standards, and to minimize duplication of effort in the preparation of accreditation materials and the conduct of on-site visits.
 - e. Provides the institution or programs with a thoughtful diagnostic analysis that assists the institution or program in finding its own approaches and solutions, and that makes a clear distinction between what is required for accreditation and what is recommended for improvement of the institution or program.
2. CAATE commissioners and its members shall participate in regular open communication with certified athletic trainers, athletic training students, faculty, and host institutions regarding pertinent accreditation information.
3. CAATE commissioners and its members shall focus accreditation reviews on the development of knowledge and competence, and in doing so:
 - a. Concentrates on results in light of specific institutional and programmatic missions, goals, objectives, and contexts.

- b. Deals comprehensively with relationships and interdependence among purposes, aspirations, curricula, operations, resources, and results.
 - c. Considers techniques, methods, and resources primarily in light of results achieved and functions fulfilled rather than the reverse.
 - d. Has standards and review procedures that provide room for experimentation, encourage responsible innovation, and promote thoughtful evolution.
4. CAATE commissioners and its members shall maintain functional and operational autonomy.
5. CAATE commissioners and its members shall be current, efficient, effective, thorough with the review and accrediting process through orientations, training, and professional development.
6. CAATE commissioners and its members shall seriously take into consideration all feedback relative to standards, policies, decision making, and action
7. CAATE commissioners and its members shall make appropriate changes to standards, policies, decision making, and action when warranted.
8. CAATE commissioners and its members shall act or represent themselves as agents of the CAATE only when so charged or appointed by the CAATE.

Principle IV – Integrity

CAATE Commissioners and its members shall convey steadfast and genuine interest in upholding their duties in all places and at all times.

1. CAATE commissioners and its members shall be expected to maintain moral standards and character, and doing so: presents its materials and conducts its business with accuracy, skill, and sophistication sufficient to produce credibility for its role as an evaluator of educational quality.
2. CAATE commissioners and its members shall review the institution from the perspective of function and results, and in doing so:
 - a. Maintains sufficient financial, personnel, and other resources to carry out its operations effectively.
 - b. Provides accurate, clear, and timely information to the higher education community, to the professions, and to the public concerning standards and procedures for accreditation, and the status of accredited institutions and programs.
3. CAATE commissioners and its members shall base reviews and recommendations to ATEPs on existing evidence and best-practice
4. CAATE commissioners and its members shall make judgments within their assigned scope of published procedures and standards, and in doing so:
 - a. Creates and documents its scope of authority, policies, and procedures to ensure governance and decision making under a framework of "laws not persons."
 - b. Exercises professional judgment in the context of its published standards and procedures.
 - c. Demonstrates continuing care with policies, procedures, and operations regarding due process, conflict of interest, confidentiality, and consistent application of standards.

- d. Presents its materials and conducts its business with accuracy, skill, and sophistication sufficient to produce credibility for its role as an evaluator of educational quality.
5. CAATE commissioners and its members shall avoid situations that incite questions about one's objectivity.
6. CAATE commissioners and its members shall be quick to admit errors in any part of the evaluation process, and equally quick to rectify such errors.

Principle V – Fairness

CAATE Commissioners and its members shall recognize the complexity of the accrediting process and shall be considerate and impartial in its process.

1. CAATE commissioners and its members shall avoid conflicts of interest.
2. CAATE commissioners and its members shall not receive personal gain from any affiliations that are assigned by CAATE.
3. CAATE commissioners and its members shall make decisions free of personal biases and non-sanctioned interpretations.
4. CAATE commissioners and its members shall maintain a broad perspective as the basis for wise decision making, and in doing so:
 - a. Gathers and analyzes information and ideas from multiple stakeholders.
 - b. Uses the results of these analyses in formulating policies and procedures that promote substantive, effective teaching and learning, that protect the autonomy of institutions and programs, and that encourage trust and cooperation within and among various components of the larger higher education community.
5. CAATE commissioners and its members shall have mechanisms to ensure that expertise and experience in the application of its standards, procedures, and values are present in members of its visiting teams, commissions, and staff, and in doing so:
 - a. Works with institutions and programs to ensure that site teams represent a collection of expertise and experience appropriate for each specific review.
 - b. Conducts evaluations of personnel that involve responses from institutions and programs that have experienced the accreditation process.
 - c. Conducts evaluations of criteria and procedures that include responses from reviewers and those reviewed.