Ethics Concerns at a 30-Year High for Future Business Leaders

Journal of Business Ethics
January 2012

Objective:
The objective of this study was to assess the nature of ethics concerns among students. Similar studies were done in 1984 and 1991, and researchers believe this provides them with information regarding the ethical concerns of the individuals who will become business leaders.

Methodology:
Will Drover, Jennifer Franczak, and Richard Beltramini surveyed over 2,000 from 23 different universities across the United States.

Key Findings:
- The major ethical concerns of respondents were:
  - How lower ethical standards may affect their personal finances, such as savings and retirement funds
  - How ethics may impact the overall economy
  - Increased pressure to participate in unethical business practices to succeed
  - Personal internet privacy
  - The environmental impact of ethical decisions

Conclusion:
The radically shifting business environment is causing attitudes towards business ethics focus more on self-interest. It is important to understand the ethical attitudes of students because they will become the next generation of employees, entrepreneurs, executives, and policymakers.

Full Report