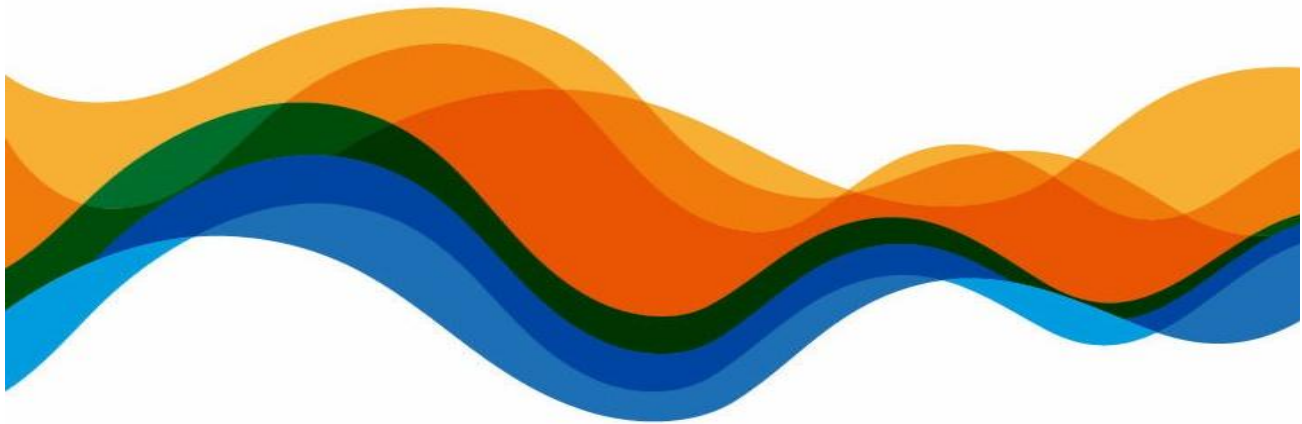




**SREE BUDDHA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**  
**Pattoor, Kerala, 690529**

**Student's  
Code of Ethics & Conduct**



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## **-SBCE Student's Code of Ethics and Conduct-**

### **1. PREAMBLE**

This Handbook indicates the standard procedures and practices of Sree Buddha College of Engineering (hereinafter referred to as the 'Institute') for all students enrolling with the Institute for pursuing varied courses. All students must know that it is incumbent upon them to abide by this Code of Ethics and Conduct (hereinafter referred to as the 'Code') and the rights and responsibilities including the restrictions flowing from it. All Students are requested to be well aware with this Code.

### **2. JURISDICTION**

The Institute shall have the jurisdiction over the conduct of the students associated /enrolled with the Institute and to take notice of all acts of misconduct including incidents of ragging etc. which are taking place on the Institute campus or in connection with the Institute related activities and functions.

Institute may also exercise jurisdiction over conduct which occurs off-campus violating the ideal student conduct and discipline as laid down in this Policy and other regulations, as if the conduct has occurred in the campus. It shall include:

- a) Any misbehavior to other students by violating the Sexual Harassment Policy of the Institute.
- b) Physical assault, threats of violence, or conduct that threatens the health or safety of any person including other students of the Institute;
- c) Possession or use of weapons, explosives, or destructive devices off campus
- d) Manufacture, sale, or distribution of prohibited drugs, alcohol etc.
- e) Conduct which has a negative impact or constitutes nuisance to members of the surrounding off-campus community.

### **3. ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

This Code shall apply to all kinds of conduct of students that occurs in the Institute premises and any off-campus conduct that has or may have serious consequences or adverse impacts on the Institute's Interests or reputation.

1. At the time of admission, each student must sign a statement accepting this Code and by giving an undertaking that
  - He/she shall be regular and complete his/her studies in the Institute.
  - In the event, a student is forced to discontinue studies for any legitimate reason, the student may be relieved from the Institute subject to the written consent of the Principal and Chairman.
  - For such relieving, the student shall be required to clear pending hostel and mess dues. If the student had joined the Institute on a scholarship, the said grant shall be revoked.
2. Institute believes in promoting a safe and efficient campus environment by enforcing behavioural standards. All students must uphold academic integrity, respect all persons and their rights and property, and safety of others; etc.
3. All students must deter from indulging in any form of misconduct including partaking in any off-campus activity which can affect the Institute's interests and reputation substantially.
4. Any act of discrimination (physical or verbal) based on an individual's gender, colour, caste, race, religious beliefs, region, language, sexual orientation, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, gender identity, etc. shall be avoided.
5. Intentionally damaging or destroying Institute property or property of other students and/or faculty members shall be avoided.
6. Any disruptive activity in a class room or in an event sponsored by the Institute shall be avoided.
7. Unable to produce the identity card issued by the Institute, or refusing to produce it on demand by the campus security shall be treated as misconduct.
8. Misconduct include participating in activities including:
  - i. Organizing meetings and processions without permission from the Institute.
  - ii. Accepting membership of religious or terrorist groups banned by the Institute/Government of India
  - iii. Unauthorized possession, carrying or use of any weapon, missiles, explosives, or potential weapons or fireworks contrary to the law or policy.
  - iv. Unauthorized possession or use of harmful chemicals and banned drugs.
  - v. Smoking in the campus of the Institute.

- vi. Possessing, consuming, distributing or selling of alcohol in the campus of the Institute.
  - vii. Parking a vehicle in a no parking zone or in area earmarked for parking other type of vehicles.
  - viii. Rash driving in the campus that may cause any inconvenience to others
  - ix. Not disclosing a pre-existing health condition, either physical or psychological, which may cause hindrance to the academic progress.
  - x. Theft or unauthorized access to others resources
  - xi. Misbehaviors at the time of student body elections or during any activity of the Institute.
  - xii. Engaging in disorderly, lewd, or indecent conduct, including, but not limited to, creating unreasonable noise; pushing and shoving; inciting or participating in a riot or group disruption at the Institute.
9. Students are not expected to interact with media representatives on behalf of the Institute. They shall not invite media persons on to the campus without the permission of the Institute authorities.
10. Students are not permitted to either audio or video record lectures in the class rooms or actions of other students, faculty, or staff without prior permission.
11. Students are not permitted to provide audio or video clippings of any activity in the campus to the media without prior permission.
12. Students are expected to use the social media carefully and responsibly. They shall neither post derogatory comments about other individuals of the Institute on the social media, nor shall indulge in any such related activities having grave ramifications on the reputation of the Institute.
13. Theft or abuse of electronic resources like computer and electronic communications facilities, systems, and services which includes unauthorized entry, use, tamper, etc. of the property or facilities of Institute's offices, classrooms, computers networks, and other restricted facilities, private residences of staff/ Professors etc., and interference with work of others is punishable.
14. Damage to, or destruction of, any property of the Institute, or any other property on the Institute premises is punishable.

15. Making a video/audio recording, taking photographs, or streaming audio/video of any person without consent in a location where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, is punishable.
16. Indulging in any form of harassment is defined as misconduct that is severe and objectively, a conduct that is motivated on the basis of a person's race, colour, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, ancestry, physical or mental disability, or medical condition.

#### **4. BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT**

If there is a case against a student for a possible breach of code of conduct, then a committee will be formed to inquire into the alleged violation and accordingly suggest the suitable disciplinary action to be taken against the said student. The committee may meet with the student to ascertain the misconduct and suggest one or more of the following disciplinary actions based on the nature of misconduct.

1. **WARNING**- Indicating that the action of the said delinquent student was in violation of the Code and any further acts of misconduct shall result in severe disciplinary action.
2. **RESTRICTIONS** -Reprimanding and restricting access to various facilities on the campus for a specified period of time.
3. **COMMUNITY SERVICE** - For a specified period of time to be extended if need be. However, any future misconduct along with failure to comply with any conditions imposed may lead to severe disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.
4. **EXPULSION** - Expulsion of a student from the Institute permanently. Indicating prohibition from entering the Institute premises or participating in any student related activities or campus residence etc.
5. **MONETARY PENALTY**- may also include suspension or forfeiture of scholarship/fellowship for a specific time period.
6. **SUSPENSION**- A student may be suspended for a specified period of time which will entail prohibition on participating in student related activities, classes, programs etc. Additionally, the student will be forbidden to use various Institute facilities unless permission is obtained from the Competent Authority. Suspension may also follow by possible dismissal, along with the following additional penalties.

7. Ineligibility to reapply for admission to the Institute for a period of three years, and
8. Withholding the mark sheets or certificate of the courses studied or work carried out.

## **5. APPEAL**

If the delinquent student is aggrieved by the imposition of any of the aforementioned penalties, he/she may appeal to the Principal. The Principal may decide on one of the following:

- a. Accept the recommendation of the committee and impose the suggested punishments or modify and impose any of the punishments as stipulated in this Code which is commensurate with the gravity of the proved misconduct, Or
- b. Refer the case back to the committee for reconsideration.

In any case, the Chairman's decision is final and binding in all the cases where there is a possible misconduct by a student.

## **6. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

As a premier institution for advanced scientific and technological research and education, the Institute values academic integrity and is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic Integrity encompasses honesty and responsibility and awareness relating to ethical standards for the conduct of research and scholarship. The Institute believes that in all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged. Academic integrity is essential for the success of the Institute and its research missions, and hence, violations of academic integrity constitute a serious offence.

### **1. Scope and Purpose**

- a) This Policy on academic integrity, which forms an integral part of the Code, applies to all students at the Institute and is required to adhere to the said policy.

The purpose of the Policy is twofold:

- To clarify the principles of academic integrity, and
- To provide examples of dishonest conduct and violations of academic integrity

- b) Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the Institution and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the Institution community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.
- c) The principles of academic integrity require that a student,
- Properly acknowledges and cites use of the ideas, results, material or words of others.
  - Properly acknowledges all contributors to a given piece of work.
  - Makes sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of impermissible materials or impermissible collaboration.
  - Obtains all data or results by ethical means and reports them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions.
  - Treats all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitates academic dishonesty by others nor obstructs their academic progress.

2. Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- a) Plagiarism means the use of material, ideas, figures, code or data as one's own, without appropriately acknowledging the original source. This may involve submission of material, verbatim or paraphrased, that is authored by another person or published earlier by oneself. Examples of plagiarism include:
- Reproducing, in whole or part, text/sentences from a report, book, project, publication or the Internet.
  - Reproducing one's own previously published data, illustrations, figures, images, or someone else's data, etc.
  - Taking material from class-notes or incorporating material from the Internet like graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables,



spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources into one's class reports, presentations, manuscripts, research papers or project without proper attribution.

- Plagiarism which constitutes copying verbatim from one's own earlier published work in a journal or conference proceedings without appropriate citations.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Paraphrasing or changing an author's words or style without citation.

b). Cheating :Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying during examinations, and copying of homework assignments, term papers, theses or manuscripts.
- Allowing or facilitating copying, or writing a report or taking examination for someone else.
- Using unauthorized material, copying, collaborating when not authorized, and purchasing or borrowing papers or material from various sources.
- Fabricating (making up) or falsifying (manipulating) data and reporting them in project and publications.
- Creating sources, or citations that do not exist
- Altering previously evaluated and re-submitting the work for re-evaluation
- Signing another student's name on an assignment, report, research paper, project or attendance sheet

c).Conflict of Interest: A clash of personal or private interests with professional activities can lead to a potential conflict of interest, in diverse activities such as teaching, research, publication, working on committees, research funding and consultancy. It is necessary to protect actual professional independence, objectivity and commitment, and also to avoid an appearance of any impropriety arising from conflicts of interest.

Conflict of interest is not restricted to personal financial gain; it extends to a large gamut of professional academic activities including peer reviewing, serving on various committees, which may, for example, oversee funding or give recognition, as well as influencing public policy.

To promote transparency and enhance credibility, potential conflicts of interests must be disclosed in writing to appropriate authorities, so that a considered decision can be made on a case-by-case basis. Some additional information is available also in the section below dealing with resources.

d) Guidelines for academic conduct are provided below to guard against negligence as well as deliberate dishonesty:

- Use proper methodology for experiments and computational work. Accurately describe and compile data.
- Carefully record and save primary and secondary data such as original pictures, instrument data readouts, laboratory notebooks, and computer folders. There should be minimal digital manipulation of images/photos; the original version should be saved for later scrutiny, if required, and the changes made should be clearly described.
- Ensure robust reproducibility and statistical analysis of experiments and simulations. It is important to be truthful about the data and not to omit some data points to make an impressive figure (commonly known as “cherry picking”).
- Laboratory notes must be well maintained in bound notebooks with printed page numbers to enable checking later during publications or patenting. Date should be indicated on each page.
- Write clearly in your own words. It is necessary to resist the temptation to “copy and paste” from the Internet or other sources for class assignments, manuscripts and project.
- Give due credit to previous reports, methods, computer programs, etc. with appropriate citations. Material taken from your own published work should also be cited; as mentioned above, it will be considered self-plagiarism otherwise.

3. Individual and Collective Responsibility: The responsibility varies with the role one plays.

- a) **Student roles:** Before submitting a project to the department, the student is responsible for checking the project for plagiarism using software that is available on the web (see resources below). In addition, the student should undertake that he/she is aware of the academic guidelines of the Institute, has checked the document for plagiarism, and that the project is original work. A web-check does not necessarily rule out plagiarism. If a student observes or becomes aware of any violations of the academic integrity policy, he/she is strongly encouraged to report the misconduct in a timely manner.
- b) **Faculty roles:** Faculty members should ensure that proper methods are followed for experiments, computations and theoretical developments, and that data are properly recorded and saved for future reference. In addition, they should review manuscripts and theses carefully. Faculty members are also responsible for ensuring personal compliance with the above broad issues relating to academic integrity. Faculty members are expected to inform students of the Institute's academic integrity policy within their specific courses, to ensure minimal academic dishonesty, and to respond appropriately and timely to violations of academic integrity.

## 7. ANTI-RAGGING

The Institute has a coherent and an effective anti-ragging policy in place which is based on the 'UGC Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009 [hereinafter referred to as the 'UGC Regulations']'. The UGC Regulations have been framed in view of the directions issued by the Supreme Court of India to prevent and prohibit ragging in all Indian Educational Institutions. The said UGC Regulations shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Institute.

1. Ragging constitutes one or more of the following acts:
  - a. any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling any student with rudeness;
  - b. indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any other student;

- c. asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such a student;
- d. any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any student;
- e. exploiting the services of a student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students;
- f. any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a student by other students;
- g. any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- h. any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to any other student ;
- i. any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of any other student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any other student.

## 2. ANTI-RAGGING COMMITTEE:

The Anti-Ragging Committee, as constituted by the Principal and headed by students affairs advisors shall examine all complaints of anti-ragging and come out with recommendation based on the nature of the incident.

## 3. ANTI-RAGGING SQUAD

To render assistance to students, an Anti-Ragging Squad, which is a smaller body, has also been constituted with various members of the campus community. The said Squad shall keep a vigil on ragging incidents taking place in the community and undertake patrolling functions. Students may note that the Squad is active and alert at all times and are empowered to inspect places of potential ragging, and also make surprise raids in hostels and other hotspots in the Institute. The Squad can also

investigate incidents of ragging and make recommendations to the Anti-Ragging Committee and shall work under the guidance of the Anti-Ragging Committee.

- b) A student found guilty by the committee will attract one or more of the following punishments, as imposed by the Anti-Ragging Committee:
- a. Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
  - b. Withholding/ withdrawing scholarship/ fellowship and other benefits.
  - c. Debarring from appearing in any test/ examination or other evaluation process.
  - d. Withholding results.
  - e. Debarring from undertaking any collaborative work or attending national or international conferences/symposia/meeting to present his/her research work.
  - f. Suspension/ expulsion from the hostels and mess.
  - g. Cancellation of admission.
  - h. Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.
  - i. In cases where the persons committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the institute shall resort to collective punishment.
  - j. If need be, in view of the intensity of the act of ragging committed, a First Information Report (FIR) shall be filed by the Institute with the local police authorities.

The Anti-Ragging Committee of the Institute shall take appropriate decision, including imposition of punishment, depending on the facts and circumstances of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging.

5. An appeal against any of the orders of punishment enumerated hereinabove shall lie to:

- a. In case of an order of an institution, affiliated to or constituent part, of the Institute, to the Principal of the Institute.

## **8. SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment is gender-based verbal or physical conduct (male/female, female/male, or same-sex) that has the purpose or effect of either unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment.

### **ASSISTANCE BY COLLEGE**

- In order to foster a fearless environment, the COLLEGE shall take proactive steps in preventing sexual harassment and resolving disputes of the above said nature.
- To provide counseling services to the complainant
- To undertake workshops and training programmes at regular intervals.
- Sensitizing the students, faculty members and employees regarding the sexual harassment guidelines
- To pursue the complaint and the safety of the complainant
- To assure confidentiality of the case
- To form the Committee to deal with the cases relating to Sexual Harassment
- To inform the members about the Internal Complaints Committee by displaying the same at conspicuous place
- Provide necessary facilities to the Internal Committee as the case may be, for dealing with the complaint and conducting inquiry;
- Assist in securing the attendance of respondent and witnesses before the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be;
- Make available such information to the Internal Committee as the case may be, as it may Require

### **Redressal Process**

- Any employee/student who feels and is being sexually harassed directly or indirectly may submit a complaint of the alleged incident to any member of the Committee in writing with her signature within 10 days of occurrence of incident.
- The Committee will maintain a register to endorse the complaint received by it and keep the contents confidential, if it is so desired, except to use the same for discreet investigation.

- The Committee will hold a meeting with the complainant within five days of the receipt of the complaint, but not later than a week in any case.
- At the first meeting, the Committee members shall hear the complainant and record her allegations. The complainant can also submit any corroborative material with a documentary proof, oral or written material etc. to substantiate her complaint.
- Thereafter, the person against whom complaint is made may be called for a deposition before the Committee and an opportunity will be given to him to give an explanation, thereafter, an “Enquiry” shall be conducted.
- In the event, the complaint does not fall under the purview of Sexual Harassment or the complaint does not mean an offence of Sexual Harassment, the same would be dropped after recording the reasons thereof.
- In case the complaint is found to be false, the complainant shall, if deemed fit, be liable for appropriate disciplinary action by the Management.

## **9. STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Any student of the Institute aggrieved by any acts of sexual harassment, misconduct or ragging as defined and summarized hereinabove can approach the Student Grievance Redressal cell at the Institute. Further, any student who is aware of any violations must report the same to the Cell. The Cell shall consist of members as appointed by the Principal. Said grievance must be in writing and should be made within 60 days from the day of the alleged violation. The Cell shall take cognizance of the grievance and inform the Committee formed to enforce this Code or the Internal Complaints Committee, in cases of any sexual harassment complaints.

## **10. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE**

As students are members of the Institute, they have a substantial interest in the governance of the Institute. The code, policies and the varied procedures laid down herein intends that the principle of student involvement in governance in both administrative and academic areas is essential and it is pivotal that students must be, at all junctures, be encouraged to put forth their views and advice, for an informed decision making. Student participation is encouraged and must be strengthened through the involvement of students in all levels. Therefore, all students who are a part of the Institute and who are going to be enrolled in the Institute are advised to uphold the policy and inform the Institute of any

violations and assist individually and collectively to improve the quality and effectiveness of this Code and appended policies.

## **11. LIBRARY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. All library users are required to enter their names and sign the register provided at the entrance.
2. Students can borrow certain number of books, periodicals (other than the current issue), CDs for a certain period of time as stipulated and communicated by the Librarian.
3. Library books are required to be returned by the student on or before the due date. A fine will be levied after the expiry of the due date. All issued books must be returned and library fines (if any) must be settled on time.
4. Borrowers shall replace lost or damaged library materials with new versions of the same.
5. Renewal of library book and of the educational materials are generally allowed if no reservation has been made for the same.
6. Personal items, for example books, folders, files etc. are not allowed in the library.
7. Case studies and project reports will not be issued to students and are for library reference purpose only.
8. Library users are expected to maintain silence at all times in the library. Cell phones and their use prohibited.
9. Library users should present their identity card for the borrowing or renewal of library material. The Librarian reserves the right to deny the issuance or renewal of library materials when the identity card is not presented by the student.
10. Marking of any kind, underlining, writing on books, and defacing any publication are strictly prohibited and if defaced, the item must be replaced with a new one.
11. The membership of the library is not transferable.
12. Books or journals removed from the shelves should not be replaced on the shelves but should be left on the table.
13. All library users are expected to read the notice board or browse the library website for library timings and other services.
14. The librarian reserves the right to refuse admission to any student violating the rules and regulations of the library.
15. Students are requested to maintain the dress code of the Institution while they are in the library.



16. Students should return all the borrowed items from the library, clear all fines and return the library ID card before leaving the Institution.

## **12. COMPUTER LAB RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **A. Entry/Exit**

1. Only students, faculty and staff of Institution are allowed inside the computer lab.
2. Visitors are allowed inside the lab only with prior permission from the appropriate authorities.
3. Students are required to sign the register at the time of entry and exit from the computer lab.
4. Students should be dressed in a formal attire (as per the dress code stipulation of the Institution) to gain entry into the lab during working hours.
5. Any kind of footwear inside the lab is strictly prohibited.
6. Students shall not carry any storage device such as CDs without prior permission from authorized personnel, and the details of the contents in the pen drive, the CDs or any other storage device is required to be registered with the staff at the lab. Failure to observe this rule will result in the student being barred from using the lab for the remaining part of the course.

### **B. Inside the Lab**

1. Students have to maintain silence at all times in the lab.
2. Students will occupy the computer systems as identified by the lab-in-charge.
3. Students will login with their username and password.
4. Where the students have carried storage devices such as pen drives or CDs, the same will be tested for any presence of computer viruses or any other undesirable content.
5. Students should not attempt to access IT servers.
6. Students shall not indulge in the hacking or retrieval of sensitive information; destruction of data or Computer programs from computers and IT servers located in the Computer lab, or anywhere else on the educational campus machines as well as server.
7. The Internet facility at the Institution is provided purely for academic purposes and knowledge acquisition. Students will not use this facility for sending unproductive, provocative or illegal electronic mails or indulge in undesirable Web chatting.

8. Whenever a student has copied any data or Computer program from the Computer system, the same should be shown to the lab-in-charge for verification or approval.
9. The lab-in-charge, system administrators inside the Computer lab or the Institution is not responsible for the loss of any personal property of the students.
10. Beverages and food are prohibited inside the Computer lab.
11. Mobile phones are prohibited in the Computer lab. The violation of the rule will result in the confiscation of the instrument and the expulsion of the student from the lab. The instrument will be returned of the student only at the end of the course.
12. Chatting and talking is prohibited in all Computer labs.
13. Students are prohibited from visiting any sites that do not add learning value or are illegal.
14. Students should use the computer lab only for academic learning. Activities of the students on the campus network tracked using monitoring software for regulation purposes.

### **13. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LABORATORY AND WORKSHOPS**

1. Students are to report for the required laboratory and workshop sessions on time.
2. Students are required to wear laboratory/workshop uniforms as prescribed by the institution. Care should be taken by the students to wear heavy duty shoes to prevent accidents in the workshop.
3. All Laboratory equipment/workshop machinery/appliances/chemicals need to be handled with care.
4. Students must intimate the faculty laboratory assistant/workshop assistant of any breakages or malfunctioning equipment immediately and as and when it is noticed.
5. Any damage caused to equipment/machinery/appliances will be recovered by the Institution from the concerned student/students.
6. Students should adhere to the instructions given by the faculty/laboratory technician/workshop technician during the laboratory class.
7. Students are required to report to the laboratory/workshop sessions with their record notebooks and must proceed to work silently on their experiments, either individually or in designated groups. Any unruly behavior such as, unnecessary talking in the laboratory/ Workshop is strictly prohibited.

8. All materials used in the laboratory/workshop are the property of the Institution and should not be taken out of the laboratory/workshop except under the guidance of a faculty member in charge and with the permission of the Head of the Department.
9. Students absenting themselves from laboratory/workshop session cannot claim to be permitted to re-do the experiments as a matter of right. The discretion/decision of the Head of the Department will be final in this case.

## **14. CODE OF ETHICS IN RESEARCH**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Sree Buddha College of Engineering (SBCE) is committed to promoting and maintaining high standards of integrity and accountability in the conduct of academic research and is keen to endorse a culture of honesty and transparency in all its institutional activities.

SBCE is dedicated to guaranteeing a free academic environment to conduct research, to publish and to teach subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth, knowledge, scholarship and/or understanding may lead.

The Institute invites its members to abide by the highest standards of integrity in their conduct of academic research and/or support to academic research activities.

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

This document serves as a guide to ethical standards and as a starting point for discussions and considerations of ethical issues related to research across all disciplines. It is meant to serve as a tool, providing reference to key resources related to ethics. It is meant to inform the practices of individuals and institutions, not to substitute for specific institutional policies and practices. It is not meant to be a standard of enforceable conduct but rather seeks to provide a set of best practices adopted voluntarily.

#### **I. GOOD PRACTICES IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH**

Academic freedom is the freedom to teach, pursue knowledge and do research without unreasonable interference or restriction from law, institutional regulations or public pressure. Its basic elements include the freedom of scholars to inquire into any subject that evokes intellectual concern, to present

findings, to publish data and conclusions without control or censorship and to teach in the manner they consider professionally appropriate.

At the same time, integrity, accountability and responsibility in conducting academic research form the cornerstone of any academic enterprise and violations of widely-recognized academic research standards represent serious offences to the entire academic community at the Institute and are considered injurious for its credibility and authority as SBCE is an institution that promotes excellence in academic research.

Academic integrity requires that academic research follows elevated professional standards, including appropriate research design and frameworks, adheres to high levels of research ethics and abides by the requirements set out by professional and regulatory research guidance and research ethics frameworks issued in appropriate areas.

## II. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Faculty members, Research scholars and students involved in research should be committed to the following:

### Integrity

- Exhibit honesty, show responsibility and integrity, and encourage others to do so.
- Avoid conflict of interest among roles when possible, and openly acknowledge current and potential conflicts of interest when they exist.

### Collaboration

- Promote disciplinary and interdisciplinary involvement and engagement wherever possible
- Encourage and assist in the development of safe, diverse, inclusive, and equitable communities
- Communicate goals, expectations, and concerns in a clear and timely manner

### Respect

- Acknowledge the diversity of people, cultures, and disciplines, as well as their respective contributions to society
- Treat colleagues, students, employees, and the public with respect

`Fairness

- Treat others in a fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory manner

### III. RESPONSIBILITY OF INSTITUTION

Principal, Dean (Research), HoDs together with the teaching staff are responsible for promoting and endorsing a transparent academic environment conducive to the application of the high professional and ethical criteria of good practice for academic research. Professors are expected to create and sustain a climate of mutual cooperation that facilitates the open exchange of ideas and the development of academic research skills. They are also expected to ensure the provision of appropriate supervision and direction for researchers, in accordance with the nature of the individual academic discipline and associated mode of research.

### IV. PUBLICATION PRACTICE AND AUTHORSHIP

SBCE encourages the publication and dissemination of results of high quality research. It also expects that researchers will engage in the process of publishing and dissemination of their work responsibly and with an awareness of the consequences of any such dissemination in the wider media. The Institute requires that all individuals listed as authors accept responsibility for the contents of the publication and can identify their contribution to it.

*The Institute does not recognize the practice of honorary authorship.*

### V. ETHICS COMMITTEE

#### FUNCTIONS OF ETHICS COMMITTEE

- ❖ To provide advice and guidance to the members of SBCE on all matters pertaining to academic research ethics
- ❖ To advise the Academic Council on compliance with the ‘Code of Ethics in Academic Research’ of the various academic activities at the SBCE
- ❖ To provide guidance and academic support to scholars on ethical issues
- ❖ To act as an investigative body for any disputed matter concerning research ethics and conduct.

## VI. MISCONDUCT IN RESEARCH

Misconduct in academic research implies (and is not limited to) fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or deception in proposing, carrying out or reporting results of research and deliberate, dangerous or negligent deviations from accepted practice in carrying out research.

Misconduct includes (and is not limited to) the following acts:

*Plagiarism:* The deliberate copying of ideas, text, data or other work (or any combination thereof) without due permission and acknowledgement.

*Piracy:* The deliberate exploitation of ideas from others without proper acknowledgement.

*Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights:* Failure to observe legal norms related to copyright and the moral rights of authors.

*Abuse of Research Resources:* Failure to observe the terms and conditions of institutionally licensed research resources.

*Misinterpretation:* The deliberate attempt to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others, whether or not for personal gain or enhancement.

*Personating:* The situation where someone other than the person who has submitted any academic work has prepared (parts of) the work;

*Fabrication and Fraud:* The falsification or invention of qualifications, data, information or citations in any formal academic exercise.

## VII. MAJOR PLAGIARISM

Major plagiarism defined as:

- ❖ Extensive paraphrasing or quoting without proper citation of the source;
- ❖ Lifting directly from a text or other academic source without reference;
- ❖ The use of papers (or parts thereof) from essay banks, either downloaded from the Internet or obtained from other sources;
- ❖ Presenting another's designs or concepts as one's own;

- ❖ Continued instances of what was initially regarded as minor plagiarism despite warnings having been given.

## VIII. PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Without prejudice to the right and duty of HoDs, any person may submit a complaint about academic misconduct to the Principal. Such complaints need to be supported by sufficient evidence. The Principal will decide whether an investigation by the Ethics Committee is needed or not based on the seriousness of the complaint.

The Ethics Committee may carry out:

- ❖ A preliminary investigation to ascertain whether there is sufficient substance to the allegation as to warrant a more thorough investigation;
- ❖ A formal inquiry will make which may include the consultation or involvement of external experts when needed.
- ❖ The Ethics Committee will produce a report stating: the procedures under which the formal investigation was conducted; how and, where appropriate, from whom information was obtained.

Based on the investigation report and recommendations of the Ethics Committee, The Principal and High level committee may decide on sanctions. The sanctions are as follows

- ❖ Resubmission of an assignment or academic work
- ❖ A letter of reprimand, issued by the chair of the Disciplinary Committee, which may or may not be recorded on the Faculty/scholar's file
- ❖ Retract the publication
- ❖ Any other Sanction relevant to academic and research

## REFERENCES:

- *Encyclopedia Britannica on academic – freedom*
- *University of Oxford (2009) Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure.*
- *Code of Ethics, Research centre, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli*
- *UGC Policy on research, University Grants Commission, New Delhi*