

**Texas A&M University**  
**Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology**  
**Code of Professional Conduct**

To meet the mission and vision of the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, this Code of Professional Conduct outlines the expectations for all faculty, staff, and students. The goal is to foster equity, inclusivity, and diversity while advancing research in ecology and conservation biology.

**1. Promote an Inclusive and Respectful Environment**

Members of the department are expected to create an equitable and inclusive environment where everyone is welcome and recognized. Aligning with the Texas A&M Code of Conduct as well as federal and state laws, members will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Members are expected to respect differing ideals and beliefs from all individuals and maintain civility and professionalism in discourse. Members will not engage in harmful behaviors or create intimidating places of work for other faculty, staff, or students.

**2. Uphold Scientific and Professional Integrity**

Members of the department are expected to create honest and objective work that is free from misinformation, plagiarism, and personal prejudices and biases. Members should adhere to academic and industry standards for ethically collecting and reporting data.

**3. Commitment to Ethical Research**

Members of the department are expected to follow all ethical guidelines for human and animal research in laboratory and field settings. This includes obtaining proper authorizations to conduct research at the institutional, state, federal, and global levels. For example, approval at the institutional level requires review by Texas A&M's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (animal research) and Institutional Review Board (human research).

**4. Staying Aware**

Members of the department are expected to stay aware of new information and issues not only within the scientific community but within the broader community. Members should pay attention to how current events and issues impact our community. Members should know where they can report potential issues relating to professional and ethical conduct.