

BCET Ethics Exam - Practice Scenarios

Instructions

Task:

Ethical decisions do not always present as black or white; therefore, it is “crucial that all ETs not only have an understanding of what ethical practice is, but also the standards of practice that need to be followed on a wider range of ethical issues” (Fogelson and Opell, 2010). AET’s Code of Ethics gives us guiding principles from which to inform our clinical decisions, and educational therapists need to be skilled in applying these principles and able to demonstrate critical reasoning skills to arrive at ethical conclusions.

The following assessment is intended to evaluate your ability to understand and analyze ethical dilemmas, engage in dialogue, and arrive at conclusions based on rational thinking. The following ethical dilemmas are based on the real-world experiences of educational therapists. Please analyze these scenarios using the process indicated below. Be thorough and detailed in your responses and make sure to respond to each step of the process. For each scenario, you will be evaluated on your ability to identify the ethical dilemma, evaluate the benefits and consequences of all possible solutions, and explain how you would deal with the situation. The quality of your writing will also be taken into account. You will utilize the Shapiro EDM (described below) to format your response to each scenario.

Since the exam requires responding to three scenarios within four hours, aim to allocate no more than 1 hour and 20 minutes per response. This includes time for brainstorming, organizing your ideas, and editing. To prepare effectively, practice responding to these scenarios as well as others drawn from your own clinical experiences. Collaborate with a BCET supervisor or mentor to receive constructive feedback and enhance your readiness.

Process – Shapiro Ethical Decision-Making Model (EDM)

Acronym: Do Something To Solve Problems

1. **D: Describe the Problem** (2-3 Sentences)

Summarize the ethical problem or ethical dilemma. An ethical dilemma is a situation in which a person or organization is faced with two or more courses of action, all of which have differing levels of moral rightness and wrongness. It requires the person or organization to make a difficult decision, often without clear guidance on which path they should take.

(Ex. The student has disclosed confidential information that may pose harm to herself or others.)

2. **S: Seek Information** (Minimum of 5 Questions)

What questions would you need to ask and to whom would you need to ask them to get

more clarity on the situation? What questions would you need answered in order to help you arrive at an ethical conclusion?

(Ex. Am I a mandated reporter? Do her parents know about the situation?)

3. **T: Theories and Principles in Conflict** (2 Paragraphs Minimum)

What guiding ethical principles are involved in this situation? Explain in detail ALL ethical conflicts that arise in the situation and cite the pertinent sections of the AET Code of Ethics. Is there a conflict of boundaries, confidentiality, or business practices? Try to use a “versus” statement.

(Ex. My duty to protect the confidentiality of my client per the AET Code of Ethics but also my responsibility to do no harm and protect my client.)

4. **S: Solutions – Possible Courses of Action** (3 Paragraphs Minimum)

Provide all possible courses of action that could be taken to address the dilemma and include the rational or guiding principles that support each choice (this is your opportunity to make your ethical thinking visible). Make sure to include a variety of possibilities, even the ones you wouldn’t choose, and discuss the benefits and consequences of every proposed solution. Describe which of the solutions or which combination of solutions proposed you would pursue and explain your reasoning as to why. Make sure to include the principles or theories that guide your decision-making.

5. **P: Process is Dynamic** (1 Paragraph)

Recognize that the process is ever-changing and that new information could alter your conclusion. Pretend as though you have done what you proposed you would do above...what are the potential outcomes and how would you address the consequences of your decision?

Scenarios

Please use the following scenarios to practice for your upcoming Ethics Exam. For each scenario, apply the Shapiro EDM to demonstrate your ethical thinking process.

Scenario 1

You are working with a 10th-grade student who has a specific learning disability in reading comprehension. During a session, the student expresses frustration about their English teacher, who reportedly uses instructional methods that the student finds inaccessible. The student asks you to advocate on their behalf by emailing the teacher directly and providing suggestions for instructional accommodations. However, the parent later contacts you and insists that no communication should take place between you and the school without their prior approval. How do you proceed?

Scenario 2

A family you work with has recently decided to change their child's educational therapy schedule to twice a month instead of weekly, citing financial constraints. They ask if you can include a detailed progress report for the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings within your current sessions, without charging additional fees. You are concerned about the time required to prepare such reports and whether this request aligns with ethical practices regarding billing and professional boundaries. How do you address this?

Scenario 3

A parent approaches you about providing educational therapy services for their middle school child, who has a history of trauma and significant emotional needs. After several sessions, it becomes apparent that the student requires a level of emotional and psychological support that is beyond the scope of your training and expertise. However, the parent insists that the therapeutic relationship you have established is beneficial and does not want to involve additional professionals. How do you handle this situation?

Allowable Resources

The following resources may be consulted during the exam:

1. **The AET Code of Ethics**
 2. **Foundational Ethical Principles Graphic**
 3. **The Ethical Thinking Processes Graphic**
 4. **The Ethics Exam Rubric**
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