ETHICS IN PUBLIC POLICY



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Introduction

The Ethics in Public Policy Training Course prepares public officials, policy advisors, and oversight professionals to make and defend policy decisions on ethical ground. Public policy touches every citizen, and trust depends on decisions that are fair, transparent, and free from improper influence. This course links ethical theory with the practical pressures of policy work. It covers integrity standards, conflict of interest, transparency, and accountability. Furthermore, it applies ethical frameworks to regulation, procurement, and service delivery. As a result, participants advise and decide in ways the public can reasonably trust.

Ethics in Public Policy Course Objectives

- Explain ethical foundations and their relevance to public decision-making.
- Apply ethical frameworks including consequentialist, deontological, and virtue approaches.
- Interpret integrity standards, codes of conduct, and public service values.
- Assess conflicts of interest and apply disclosure and recusal rules.
- Apply transparency, access to information, and open government principles.
- Evaluate regulatory and policy decisions for fairness and proportionality.
- Apply ethics to procurement, grants, and public spending decisions.
- Identify corruption risk and strengthen integrity safeguards.
- Design accountability mechanisms, oversight, and redress routes.
- Build ethical judgement, whistleblowing channels, and integrity culture.

Course Methodology

- Interactive lectures with real public policy and integrity case studies.
- Ethical dilemma workshops and structured decision frameworks.
- Policy review exercises testing fairness and proportionality.

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- Conflict of interest and accountability simulation activities.
- Structured peer discussion with facilitator feedback on ethical reasoning.

Who Should Take This Course

- Civil servants and public sector policy advisors.
- Regulatory and oversight authority staff.
- Public procurement and grants officers.
- Elected officials and their policy teams.
- Civil society and governance professionals.
- Internal auditors and integrity officers in government.

Ethics in Public Policy Course Outlines

Day 1: Foundations of Ethics in Public Life

- Ethical theories and their application to policy decisions.
- Public service values, integrity, and the public interest.
- Distinguishing legality, compliance, and ethical obligation.
- Codes of conduct and professional standards for officials.
- Trust, legitimacy, and public confidence.
- Ethical decision-making models for complex policy choices.
- Case study: a policy decision that damaged public trust.

Day 2: Integrity, Conflicts, and Influence

- Conflict of interest: identification, disclosure, and recusal.
- Gifts, hospitality, and improper influence.

- Lobbying, interest groups, and transparency obligations.
- Post-employment restrictions and revolving door risks.
- Declarations of interest registers and monitoring practice.
- Managing political pressure and ethical independence.
- Workshop: resolving a conflict of interest and influence case.

Day 3: Transparency, Accountability, and Redress

- Access to information and open government principles.
- Publication, disclosure, and record keeping duties.
- Accountability mechanisms: audit, inspection, and ombudsman routes.
- Whistleblowing channels and protection of reporters.
- Complaints handling and administrative redress.
- Communicating policy decisions honestly to the public.
- Workshop: designing an accountability and redress framework.

Day 4: Ethics in Regulation, Procurement, and Spending

- Fairness, proportionality, and consistency in regulation.
- Evidence use, consultation, and policy justification.
- Ethics in public procurement, grants, and contracting.
- Corruption and fraud risk in public spending.
- Integrity safeguards, controls, and monitoring.
- Dealing with vendors, contractors, and donors ethically.
- Workshop: reviewing a procurement decision for integrity risk.

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Day 5: Building Integrity Culture and Practice

- Leadership, tone from the top, and role modelling.
- Ethics training, awareness, and capability development.
- Institutionalising ethical review and advice.
- Measuring integrity performance and trust indicators.
- Coordination with anti-corruption and integrity bodies.
- Personal ethical leadership and professional conduct.
- Course review, assessment, and action planning.

Conclusion

By successfully completing Ethics in Public Policy, participants will gain a thorough understanding of ethical foundations, integrity and conflict management, transparency and accountability, ethics in regulation and public spending, and integrity culture. They will also acquire practical skills in ethical decision-making, conflict of interest management, accountability design, and integrity risk review. In addition, the course prepares them to serve the public interest with confidence and credibility. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with a strong focus on applied public sector practice and measurable integrity improvement.

FAQs for Ethics in Public Policy course

Q1 What is the "Ethics in Public Policy" course about?

It is a five-day programme on ethical decision-making in the public sector. It covers ethical theories and public service values, integrity and conflict of interest management, transparency and accountability, ethics in regulation, procurement and spending, and approaches to building an integrity culture.

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Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Ethics in Public Policy" course?

Participants gain the ability to make and defend decisions on clear ethical grounds. The course improves public trust and legitimacy, strengthens conflict of interest management, reduces corruption and fraud exposure in public spending, improves transparency and accountability, lowers legal and reputational risk, and builds a stronger integrity culture across institutions.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Ethics in Public Policy" course?

Participants gain ethical framework application and decision-making, conflict of interest and influence management, transparency, accountability and redress design, and integrity risk assessment in procurement and public spending. These four skills cover the practical core of ethical public policy practice.

Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Ethics in Public Policy" course?

The course covers consequentialist, deontological and virtue ethics, ethical decision-making models, public service values and codes of conduct, conflict of interest disclosure and recusal procedures, declaration of interest registers, gifts and hospitality thresholds, lobbying and transparency obligations, post-employment restrictions, access to information principles, publication and record keeping duties, audit, inspection and ombudsman accountability routes, whistleblowing channels and reporter protection, complaints handling and administrative redress, proportionality and fairness tests in regulation, consultation and evidence use standards, ethics in procurement and grant making, corruption and fraud risk assessment, integrity safeguards and monitoring controls, and integrity performance measurement frameworks.

Q5 How is the "Ethics in Public Policy" course applied in real-world practice?

Participants apply the frameworks to live policy work. They assess ethical implications of decisions, declare and manage conflicts, prepare disclosure material, design accountability routes, review procurement decisions for integrity risk, and advise colleagues on ethical questions. Many leave with an ethical decision checklist and an integrity risk template ready for immediate use.