

Undergraduate Student Learning Goal 8: Social Responsibility and Ethical Reasoning Rubric (for use 2021-22)

Students are able to identify and address conflicting ethical values and develop a sense of responsibility for the broad impacts of individual actions, social institutions and public policy. They understand their role as citizens and their responsibility to work with others in promoting quality of life and a sustainable society. Social responsibility, like civic engagement, means promoting the quality of community life through both political and non-political processes. Ethical reasoning is reasoning about right and wrong human conduct. (NOTE: Terms in italics below are defined in glossary.)

Social Responsibility and Ethical Reasoning	What is being assessed	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Proficient 3	Exemplary 4
8.1 Social Justice and Civic Action (Social Responsibility)	Understanding and addressing issues related to inequality and/or social justice	Recognizes instances of inequality and/or injustice within and/or between societies	Identifies causes of inequality and/or injustice	Describes existing strategies for addressing causes of inequality and/or injustice, imagining possibilities or alternatives for a different future	Demonstrates ability to participate in and meaningfully reflect on <i>civic</i> activities aimed at reducing inequality and/or injustice in partnership with public groups, OR critiques, from multiple perspectives, strategies for addressing causes of inequality and/or injustice
8.2 Civic Engagement (Social Responsibility)	Understanding an individual's role in working toward improvements in <i>civil society</i>	Identifies basic components of <i>engagement</i> in <i>civil society</i>	Explains why individual <i>engagement</i> is important to <i>civil society</i>	Recognizes that individuals are responsible to be active participants in <i>civil society</i> , and includes identifying ways to participate	Identifies and reflects on strategies that can be used to improve <i>civil society</i>
8.3 Social and Ethical Reasoning (Ethical Reasoning)	Ability to recognize contentious social or ethical issues and to deploy relevant forms of ethical reasoning in grappling with these issues	Identifies a contentious social or ethical issue but may not yet grasp the complexity of the issue or identify relevant forms of ethical reasoning	Shows a partial grasp of complexities involved in a contentious social or ethical issue OR recognizes different possible approaches to ethical reasoning	Develops and justifies a position on a contentious social or ethical issue while taking account of other possible positions or ethical approaches	Critically reflects on an individual's values and approaches to ethical decision-making and how they relate to diverse perspectives and positions on a contentious social or ethical issue, OR collaborates with a diverse group to develop and implement an approach to a <i>civic</i> issue or ethical dilemma
8.4 Application of Ethical Perspectives/ Concepts (Ethical Reasoning)	Ability to apply forms of ethical reasoning to ethical questions and problems	Identifies (in a limited way) ethical perspectives/ concepts that would apply to an obvious ethical issue (though the application may be inaccurate)	Appropriately identifies ethical perspectives/ concepts that would apply to an ethical issue	Accurately applies ethical perspectives/concepts to an ethical question and considers obvious implications of the application	Accurately applies ethical perspectives/concepts to an ethical question and is able to consider full implications of the application

Adapted from [Association of American Colleges & Universities \(AAC&U\) VALUE rubric](http://www.aacu.org/value-rubrics) [http://www.aacu.org/value-rubrics] on civic engagement and ethical reasoning.

Glossary

Note: Words in italics in the rubric are defined in the glossary.

- **Civic:** Of or relating to a citizen, a city, citizenship, or community affairs (Merriam-Webster)
- **Civic engagement:** Working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, and motivation to make that difference. (AAC&U and *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*).
- **Civil Society:** Society considered as a community of citizens linked by common interests and collective activity. (OED)