The Beta Alpha Psi Ethics Award
Sponsored by Grant Thornton

Mission: To encourage the members of Beta Alpha Psi and their communities to develop a solid ethical foundation and to empower them to act on these principles, no matter the situation.

Regardless how big or small the dilemma, how severe or mild the consequences, whether people are looking or not, it is imperative for business professionals to have integrity. Cheating on a test, falsifying credentials and providing misleading information, such as charging for time not worked, are all acts that can compromise one’s integrity and ultimately harm one’s reputation.

In order for the financial markets to operate effectively, the users of financial information need to trust the source of the information used to make decisions. The professionals providing the figures, as well as those certifying them, have a responsibility to the business community to report accurately and honestly. To keep this trust in the markets, it’s not only the big decisions that matter but also smaller ones that prove the integrity of the professionals and their organizations.

Ethics is one of the core values that Grant Thornton uses to guide its daily operations. To promote ethical and social accountability, Grant Thornton is proud to sponsor this award through Beta Alpha Psi, with up to $20,000 awarded annually.

The 2018-2019 award competition is made up of two rounds: an abstract of the planned project and a final submission of the results.

Round 1
An abstract is to be submitted to the review committee outlining the planned project. There are many options for what may constitute this project, activity, series of activities or events, presentations, case competitions, ethics programs, etc. Chapters are required to submit budgets that outline the funding needed to implement their planned projects. The committee will review and select up to 10 chapters that will be granted up to $1,000 each for their projects.

Deliverables
• Completed abstract form, including:
  – Chapter information
  – Description of the project, with the mission and objectives, chapter involvement, and participants
  – Budget for implementation of the project

Deadline
• Please submit the final written submission online at https://www.bap.org/ethics-award by Dec. 1st at 12 p.m. CST.

Follow-up
• The review committee will notify applicants of the semifinalists by mid-January and provide each one with a check for up to $1,000.
Round 2
A written submission describing the implementation outcomes, and overall assessment of the mission and objectives of the project, is due from the selected semifinalists. The review committee will evaluate the outcomes and award up to four chapters with $2,500 each.

Deliverables
- Description of the implementation of the projects, including chapter participation, as well as outside participation
- Assessment of the impact made on participants, including feedback from individuals involved (i.e., chapter participants, other participants/audience, organizers, faculty advisers)
- Evaluation of the outcomes of the project against the mission and objectives
- Materials and exhibits used in the project to allow the review committee to make an independent assessment on the quality and effectiveness of the program

Deadline
- Please submit all abstracts online at https://www.bap.org/ethicsaward by May 1st at 12 p.m. CST.

Follow-up
- The awards for the 2018-2019 winners will be presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting, up to four chapters will be awarded $2,500 each.

Connect with us

facebook.com/GrantThorntonCareers
@GrantThorntonUSA
linkd.in/grantthorntonus
@GrantThorntonUS
gt.com/careers

Other considerations
- Inspiring leaders who will invest in your career and professional development
- The more participation and involvement from the chapter, the better.
- A minimum of 30 chapter hours are expected to complete the project.
- Keep in mind that the focus of the award is to encourage and reward ethical behavior. A park cleanup, while beneficial to the community, will not qualify for this award.
- Analyze the results of the project to make clear to the judges the impact that the project had on all individuals involved.
- The project is expected to span a period of time even if it culminates with one event; however, it is likely that the majority of the work on the project will be performed in the spring semester.
- Participants are expected to complete their project prior to the required deadline.
- Limit goals and objectives so participants can focus on the quality and effectiveness of the project.
- Example project topics:
  - Speaker series and ethics program on campus
  - Case studies/ethical dilemmas for college, community college or high school classes
  - Continuing professional education program
- Recognition/awards for individuals who act in an ethical manner.
- Research projects on ethical behavior.
- Interviews or panel discussion with cross-section of students, faculty and/or professionals for understanding of real-life ethical dilemmas.
- Public service campaign for schools and businesses to broaden awareness.

This is not an all-inclusive list; we encourage you to be creative and think outside the box.