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The Survival Imperative: Critical Components of the Ethical Education of Scientists and Engineers

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Research integrity and the responsible conduct of research are integral to the adequate education of students in science and engineering. But, although necessary, they are not sufficient. Humans are especially clever and powerful as a species. At the same time, humans are largely ignorant of what they do not know, and disappointingly arrogant. Because science and engineering are an embodiment and instrument of human cleverness and power, it is critical that science and engineering students understand the societal impacts of these disciplines and be able to consider explicitly their own social responsibilities as professionals. Thus, social responsibility is also a key element of the education of scientists and engineers.