

Conflict of Interest Case Examples

Conflict of interest (as an individual) in the narrow sense

Example: A case where a professor conducts a clinical trial of a new drug of which a company holds a patent and the professor owns shares in the company

(Details)

It is considered that profits that a professor gains from his shares in a venture company (contingency profit such as a capital gain) conflict with the duty he should fulfill in conducting fair and neutral clinical trials of the company's new drug as a university professor. In fact, an issue may arise where the professor is perceived by external parties to have distorted the results of the clinical trials to earn a capital gain from the company, or even if such a case does not exist, the situation may be considered suspicious by society.

Conflict of interest (as a university) in the narrow sense

Example: A case where a university conducts a joint research project with a company in which the university owns shares, or where the company makes significant donations to the university.

(Details)

It is considered that profits that a university gains from its shares in a company (contingency profit such as a capital gain), or significant donations made to the university by the company, conflict with the university's social obligation to conduct joint research with the company from a neutral and fair standpoint. In fact, an issue may arise where society perceives the university to be prioritizing its own interests over its social responsibility to pursue education and research, which could result in a distortion of judgement and ultimately undermine confidence in the university's work.

Conflict of commitment

Example: A case where a professor concurrently serves as a director of a venture company, and his commitment to the company is interfering with the education and research activities at a university

(Details)

It is considered that serving as a company director conflicts with the role of a university professor. In fact, an issue may arise where society perceives the professor to be prioritizing his company role and is therefore unable to effectively fulfill his duties at the university.