

Research on the Incorruptible Education System of Chinese Universities in the New Era

Chang Shan^{1*}, Wenliang Jin²

¹School of Accountancy, Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing 100081, China

²Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing 100876, China

**Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.*

Copyright: © 2025 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

Abstract: Incorruptible education in universities is not only a significant support for strengthening university Party-building and promoting the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party in the new era, but also a crucial part of cultivating new talents capable of taking on the responsibility of national rejuvenation. Under the new situation of making Further progress in party self-governance, there are still some urgent problems in university incorruptible education, such as the weak construction of the collaborative mechanism, the lack of pertinence in education, and the lack of innovation in educational carriers. To adapt to the new situation, the construction of the university's incorruptible education system should establish a large-scale collaborative and all-round education pattern, implement targeted and hierarchical education, and carry out diversified education with rich content.

Keywords: Universities; Incorruptible education; System

Online publication: November 10, 2025

1. Introduction

The Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China emphasized strengthening the construction of incorruptible culture in the new era, highlighting the important role of incorruptible culture in the fight against corruption. Incorruptible education for college students is an important breakthrough in the construction of an incorruptible culture in the new era. It helps young people correctly understand the nature and harm of corruption and form values that advocate incorruptibility and despise corruption, which is of great strategic significance for realizing an incorruptible China ^[1].

2. Re-analysis of the connotation of university incorruptible education

2.1. The original meaning and value orientation of incorruptibility

As a traditional virtue of the Chinese nation, incorruptibility is an ideological and moral concept, which is reflected in people's self-cultivation and self-restraint at the ideological and moral level. Wang Yi, a scholar in

the Eastern Han Dynasty, explained “incorruptible” in “Annotations to the Songs of Chu” as “not accepting bribes is called incorruptible, and not being contaminated is called purity.” Later generations often use it to refer to those with correct conduct and pure character. Since ancient times, whether as an individual virtue or social morality, the moral orientation of incorruptibility has been very clear. The American legal philosopher Fuller once divided morality into “the morality of aspiration” and “the morality of duty”: the former aims at the pursuit of the highest level of perfection, while the latter emphasizes adhering to the basic bottom line. In a normal society, incorruptibility is an obligation in doing things and a bottom line that must be adhered to, rather than just a noble virtue.

2.2. The original meaning of university incorruptible education

Incorruptible education takes advocating incorruptibility and resisting corruption as its core content, aiming to improve individuals’ ideological awareness and form the subjective awareness of self-discipline in incorruptible. It achieves this goal through cultivating the mind and educating people with virtues and civilization. At the same time, universities are important places for spreading excellent culture and the main platforms for the formation of college students’ worldviews, values, and outlooks on life. Ideological and political education is an important carrier for moral cultivation in universities. As an essential self-restraint ability for people, incorruptibility is an indispensable part of ideological and political education in universities and must be highly valued.

University incorruptible education should be guided by Xi Jinping’s cultural ideology. Through learning anti-corruption knowledge, cultivating incorruptible emotions, strengthening incorruptible will, firming incorruptible beliefs, and forming incorruptible behaviors, it promotes the educated to form long-lasting and stable incorruptible qualities. Among them, learning anti-corruption knowledge belongs to the knowledge education content at the level of anti-corruption cognition; cultivating incorruptible emotions, strengthening incorruptible will, and firming incorruptible beliefs belong to the content of concept education; and forming incorruptible behaviors belongs to the practical education content at the level of anti-corruption practice. These three levels should be progressive and deepened step by step.

3. The significance of university incorruptible education

3.1. The need for universities to implement the fundamental task of fostering morality and cultivating people

The fundamental, leading, and overall status of higher education in the country’s social development is becoming increasingly prominent. Therefore, the fundamental task of universities is to foster morality and cultivate people. One important aspect is to help college students establish correct outlooks on life, worldviews, and values through necessary incorruptible education and cultivate their awareness and qualities of incorruptibility and honesty. This is an indispensable part of ideological and political education in universities in the new era and a specific measure to implement the fundamental task of fostering morality and cultivating people.

At the same time, universities are a critical period for the formation of college students’ values. Young students are in a critical period of transition from heteronomous obedience to autonomous judgment^[2]. The exemplary role of university administrators and teachers is crucial. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out anti-corruption practice and teaching for administrators and teachers to improve their ability to lead the construction of an incorruptible culture and create a campus atmosphere that advocates incorruptibility and honesty, so as to optimize the educational environment for implementing the fundamental task of fostering morality and

cultivating people.

3.2. The need for universities to promote advanced culture and lead the social trend of incorruptible

As ideological and cultural positions, universities are radiation sources for spreading advanced culture and have unique cultural and talent advantages in cultural construction. Therefore, building a positive and advanced culture is a need for cultivating high-quality specialized talents and leading social and cultural progress. Among them, the construction of an incorruptible culture is an essential element and condition for the construction of an advanced culture.

Carrying out innovative incorruptible education, promoting the construction of an incorruptible culture, cultivating good school spirit and academic atmosphere, cultivating the sentiments of teachers and students, boosting the spiritual state of teachers and students, guiding students to establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, and shaping fair and honest qualities are of great significance for the whole society to form a positive cultural atmosphere that advocates incorruptible.

4. Problems in university incorruptible education

As the comprehensive and strict governance of the Party deepens, universities generally attach more importance to incorruptible education. However, in the new situation, the proportion of prevention in the three aspects of “punishment, governance, and prevention” in the anti-corruption work is increasing. In the construction of the mechanism of “dare not corrupt, cannot corrupt, and do not want to corrupt,” the consciousness of “not wanting to corrupt” is becoming more and more important, and the requirements for incorruptible education are also higher. Currently, university incorruptible education generally has difficulty meeting the requirements of the new stage and new situation.

4.1. Weak construction of the incorruptible education collaborative mechanism

Most universities integrate incorruptible education into ideological and political education, but the various educational entities have not formed an effective linkage. There is a lack of a unified educational concept and a sense of shared responsibility among the discipline inspection and supervision departments, ideological and political teachers, and the league and student teams. In some universities, incorruptible education is scattered among other work of various departments. The educational content lacks systematicity, and the educational methods lack coherence. As a result, an effective educational synergy cannot be formed to enhance the effect.

In addition, some universities have not formulated long-term, systematic, and specific educational plans according to the characteristics and growth laws of the educational objects, and have not established a long-term mechanism for incorruptible education. Some activities are just about forwarding superior documents and conveying meeting spirits, with the phenomenon of implementing documents with documents and implementing meetings with meetings; some activities lack long-term and detailed planning, and the educational content is highly arbitrary, learning whatever comes to mind; some activities are only carried out according to the instructions of superiors, lacking summary, analysis, and induction. Even if the activities have good effects during the implementation, they are difficult to sustain, resulting in incorruptible education becoming a mere formality, with insufficient depth and breadth of education and unclear effects.

4.2. Lack of pertinence in incorruptible education

University leading cadres and managers in key fields and key positions have greater power and have the resources and convenience for rent-seeking, which makes them prone to corruption. Therefore, when carrying out incorruptible education, some universities focus more on exemplary and warning education for leading cadres and managers in key positions. For example, they regularly or irregularly carry out education on the Party spirit, Party discipline and regulations, and professional ethics, and require secondary units to strengthen the awareness of “dual responsibilities” and “the first-responsible person” of Party and government leaders. However, there is a lack of targeted incorruptible education for teachers and students.

As teachers have increasingly extensive contacts with society, undesirable phenomena such as academic corruption, academic misconduct, and academic anomie occur frequently. Teachers’ words and deeds have a subtle influence on students and are objects for students to imitate. For college students, they are in a critical period for the formation of ideological and political qualities and characters. If there are undesirable phenomena such as vote-rigging, pulling strings, and taking shortcuts on campus, they will face more temptations such as power and money when they enter society in the future. If incorruptible education is not in place during their college years and the ideological and moral defense line against corruption is not built in their hearts, it may eventually lead to serious consequences.

4.3. Lack of innovation in incorruptible education carriers

The incorruptible education for college students lacks methods that match the characteristics of the educated. When carrying out incorruptible education, some universities have a one-size-fits-all design in form and content and lack innovation. Many universities only carry out activities according to the instructions of superiors, without innovating educational forms in combination with school characteristics, professional features, and talent training goals, and without using intuitive, vivid, and interesting activity forms.

Therefore, in addition to classroom teaching of ideological and political theories, the channels for students to receive incorruptible education are still limited. Students often have difficulty forming a deep impression^[2]. Instead, they think that incorruptible education is just a formality and cannot form a sense of identity and belonging to an incorruptible culture, let alone internalize it into conscious behavioral habits.

5. Construction of the university incorruptible education system in the new era

5.1. Establishing a “large-scale collaborative and all-round” education pattern

University incorruptible education is a systematic project. It should fully explore various resources, broaden multiple channels, establish and improve a long-term mechanism for incorruptible education that is connected with classroom education, coordinated with campus culture construction, and consistent with talent training goals, expand the coverage of education, and enhance the penetration of education.

For this purpose, first of all, it is necessary to give full play to the functional advantages of various units and departments in the school and clarify the main implementers of incorruptible education for specific educational objectives. For example, the incorruptible education for leading cadres is led by the discipline inspection commission and the organization department; the education on teachers’ professional ethics and academic morality is led by the personnel department and the scientific research department; the ideological and moral and incorruptible education for undergraduates and postgraduate students is led by the student affairs department, the graduate school, and the league committee respectively; and the promotion of incorruptible culture into classrooms and textbooks is led by the teaching affairs department.

In this way, all functional departments and colleges can perform their respective duties, give full play to their advantages, and cooperate with each other to jointly promote the long-term working mechanism of incorruptible education. Secondly, it is necessary to give full play to the roles of full-time and part-time education teams to create a good atmosphere of all-staff education. The full-time education team refers to full-time teachers and ideological and political educators, and the part-time education team refers to other teaching and administrative staff. The full-time education team undertakes the responsibility of “educating people through teaching.” They should integrate incorruptible education into the teaching of “two courses” and professional courses, at the same time, strengthen their own ideological and political qualities, establish good professional ethics, and pay attention to setting good examples for students to influence them subtly. Although other teaching and administrative staff are not on the front line of teaching, they shoulder the responsibilities of “educating people through management” and “educating people through service.” The school should guide them to play the exemplary role of “being a teacher with high learning and a model with noble character” through standardized management to create a good educational environment.

5.2. Implementing targeted and hierarchical education

The people on campus can be roughly divided into three categories: Party members, cadres, and managers; teaching and administrative staff; and students. Therefore, incorruptible culture education must be carried out in a targeted manner for different objects and at different levels, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach. For this purpose, it is necessary to clarify the focus of incorruptible culture education for each group.

First, Party members, cadres, and managers in key departments and positions have the management and use rights of important school-running resources. They should focus on education in laws and regulations, financial discipline, and professional ethics to enhance their awareness of combating corruption and strengthening the prevention and control of incorruptible risks.

Second, university teachers are the undertakers of education and teaching work and the main disseminators of incorruptible culture. Attention should be paid to the construction of teachers’ professional ethics, academic morality, and professional ethics, advocating a teaching style of rigorous scholarship and honest teaching, improving teachers’ professional ethics and self-discipline awareness against corruption, and strengthening their exemplary and leading role. The advanced deeds of excellent teachers should be used to drive all teachers to advocate incorruptible, respect morality, and love their jobs.

Third, college students are an important force for future construction, and universities are a critical period for talent shaping and personality cultivation. Therefore, with ideal and belief education as the core and improving students’ awareness of the rule of law, discipline, responsibility, and rules as the focus, incorruptible education should be integrated into all aspects of college life to cultivate high-quality talents in the new era.

In terms of grasping important time nodes and key links and carrying out educational activities with rich content:

For Party members, cadres, and managers, pre-appointment incorruptible talks should be carried out for newly appointed cadres at important nodes such as leadership changes to strengthen their awareness of responsibility, discipline and rules, self-discipline in incorruptible, and supervision; during important festivals such as New Year’s Day, Spring Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, and Mid-Autumn Festival, strengthen the reminder of self-discipline in incorruptible by issuing notices and sending reminder messages to clarify the festival discipline requirements.

For teaching and administrative staff, at important time nodes such as employment, title application, and

project application, carry out professional ethics education focusing on teaching style, academic atmosphere, and academic morality, and promote excellent teaching ethics by commending outstanding Communist Party members and teachers.

For students, according to their growth laws and grade characteristics, it is necessary to clarify that incorruptible education should be integrated into undergraduates' daily study, scientific research, and social practice, and grasp the two "time points" of enrollment and joining the Party. For example, in the first class of the new semester, integrate incorruptible education into the opening ceremony and enrollment education to let students be influenced by incorruptible from the first day of enrollment; strengthen incorruptible education during the process of students joining the Party and integrate it into all links such as the training of Party-member candidates in the Party school, the education for probationary Party members to become full members, and the Party-joining oath ceremony.

In short, to strengthen the cultivation process, it is necessary to integrate the content of incorruptible education into ideological and political construction, combine professional education with ethical education, promote incorruptible education into classrooms and students' minds, and strengthen education at important nodes such as exams and thesis defenses. For example, the content of honest exam themes can be pushed through the WeChat official account before exams. To strengthen the graduation process, the content of incorruptible education can be strengthened in the graduation ceremony, and students can be guided to take the first step in their careers through graduation messages; colleges can organize activities such as visiting warning education bases and carrying out special lectures in combination with professional characteristics and employment directions to help students understand the industry's requirements for incorruptible and self-discipline and establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values.

5.3. Carrying out diversified education with rich content

First, expand the carriers of incorruptible education and integrate it into the first and second classrooms. Classroom teaching has always been the main channel for incorruptible education for college students. For different learning stages and levels of student groups, special topics on incorruptible education should be set up in the two classrooms to carry out education on Party discipline and state laws, self-discipline in incorruptible, and the socialist concept of honor and disgrace, guiding students to establish correct consumption views, love views, and employment views. At the same time, continuously expand the space for incorruptible education, such as infiltrating incorruptible education into professional courses and integrating it into the second classroom and extracurricular activities^[3]. In addition, strengthen the role of the Party organization as an educational position, and grasp the links such as the cultivation of Party-member candidates and the conversion of probationary Party members. For example, integrate incorruptible education and the construction of incorruptible culture into the Party school curriculum, and organize students to discuss major typical cases through activities such as Party days, league days, and class meetings to improve their ability to distinguish right from wrong. Rely on the existing campus culture platforms to carry educational content such as values, moral cultivation, professional spirit, and incorruptible qualities, create brand activities for incorruptible education, and enrich the connotation of campus culture.

Second, use various forms to enrich incorruptible education. Through media such as WeChat official accounts, websites, radio stations, school newspapers, and bulletin boards, build a diversified and interactive incorruptible culture education system to strengthen the publicity of incorruptible culture. Make full use of modern technological means to innovate the expression forms of incorruptible culture. Use virtual reality

and augmented reality technologies to create immersive experience spaces for incorruptible culture, making the concept of incorruptible more intuitive and vivid through simulated real-life scenarios and interactive experiences to enhance the participation of the audience^[3].

Third, pay attention to the integration of disciplines, integrate various educational resources, and build a “large-scale publicity and large-scale education” pattern for incorruptible culture. For this purpose, it is necessary to attach importance to the integration of emerging and interdisciplinary resources, combine incorruptible education with ideological and political education, moral character education, legal education, ethnic unity education, career planning, and employment guidance, so that various types of education can complement each other and comprehensively improve the overall incorruptible qualities of teachers, students, and staff.

Funding

Party Building, Ideological and Political Work Research Institute Project of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (DJ202509)

Disclosure statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Wei B, Gao P, Zhang Y, 2025, Construction of School Incorruptible Culture in the New Era: Value Connotation and Realization Dimensions. *Journal of Shanxi University of Finance and Economics*, 47(S1): 217–219.
- [2] Peng S, Niu Z, Hong Y, 2025, Effect Inspection and Functional Logic of Incorruptible Education for College Students—Analysis Based on Questionnaire Experiments. *Journal of Northeast Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, (04): 38–49.
- [3] Wang C, Zheng C, 2025, Main Achievements and Future Approaches in the Construction of Incorruptible Culture in the New Era. *Social Scientist*, (03): 47–54.

Publisher’s note

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.