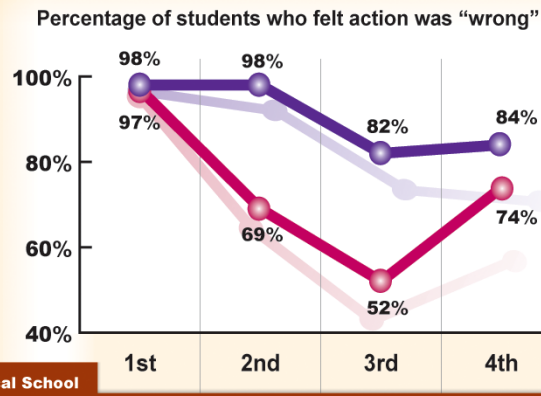


## The Erosion of Medical Students' Ethics

A recent attitudinal study of medical students in various years of study found many didn't always consider unethical behavior wrong:

- Forging a doctor's signature
- Writing "Examination - Normal" when the examination hadn't been performed

In reviewing these results, the researchers asked the obvious question: "Although moral reasoning is only one part of ethical behavior, could it be that medical schools, instead of developing integrity and honesty in students, may inadvertently be promoting dishonesty and a lack of integrity?"



SOURCE: Rennie SC, Rudland JR. Differences in medical students' attitudes to academic misconduct and reported behavior across the years – a questionnaire study. *J Med Ethics* 2003;29:97-102.