

Engineering Ethics

- Society expects engineers to have:
 1. technical expertise
 2. high standards of professional conduct
- 99% of your university education is on the 1st – we should talk a little about the 2nd!
- “Standards” can be legal, personal or ethical
 - Ethical considerations must come first
- What are ethical or high standards of professional conduct?
 - Moral or socially approved behaviors
 - “Normative” ethics – generally agreed upon good and morally right behavior
 - Such as?

Engineers' Creed

As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare.

I pledge:

- To give the utmost of performance;
- To participate in none but honest enterprise;
- To live and work according to the laws of man and the highest standards of professional conduct;
- To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.

Adopted by National Society of Professional Engineers, June 1954

NCEES Model Rules of Conduct

Preamble

- To comply with the purpose of the (identify state registration statute) which is **to safeguard life, health, and property, to promote the public welfare, and to maintain a high standard of integrity and practice**, the (identify state board registration statute) has developed the following "Rules of Professional Conduct." These rules shall be binding on every person holding a certificate of registration to offer or perform engineering and land surveying services in this state. All persons registered under (identify state registration statute) are required to be familiar with the registration statute and these rules. The "Rules of Professional conduct" delineate specific obligations the registrant must reach. **In addition, each registrant is charged with the responsibility of adhering to standards of highest ethical and moral conduct in all aspects of the practice of professional engineering and land surveying.**

- The practice of professional engineering and land surveying is a privilege, as opposed to a right. All registrants shall exercise their privilege of **practicing by performing services only in the areas of their competence** according to current standards of technical competence.
- Registrants shall recognize their responsibility to the public and shall **represent themselves before the public only in an objective and truthful manner.**
- They shall **avoid conflicts of interest and faithfully serve the legitimate interests of their employers, clients, and customers** within the limits defined by these rules. Their professional reputation shall be built on the merit of their services and they **shall not compete unfairly** with others.
- The "Rules of Professional Conduct" as promulgated herein are enforced under the power and vested by (identify state enforcing agency). In these rules, the word 'registrant' shall mean any person holding a license or a certificate issued by (identify state registration agency).