University of Technology
Department of Materials Engineering
Fourth Grade
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Third Lecture- First Semester

Codes of Ethics

Codes of ethics state the moral responsibilities of engineers as seen by the profession and as represented by a professional society. Because they express the profession's collective commitment to ethics, codes are enormously important, not only in stressing engineers' responsibilities but also in supporting the freedom needed to meet them. Codes of ethics play at least eight essential roles: serving and protecting the public, providing guidance, offering inspiration, establishing shared standards, supporting responsible professionals, contributing to education, deterring wrongdoing, and strengthening a profession's image.

- Definition of Code -A system of words, letters, figures, or symbols used to represent others, especially for the purposes of secrecy (keeping something secret). -A systematic collection of laws or statutes (written law)
- Definition of Code of Ethics -A written set of guidelines issued by an organization to its workers and management to help them conduct their actions in accordance with its primary values and ethical standards.

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Engineering is an important and learned profession.

1-As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

2-Engineering has a direct and vital (essential) impact on the quality of life for all people.

3- Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality (equal treatment), fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

4- Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence (commitment) to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

Fundamental Canons (the body of rules, principles, or standards)

Engineers, in the fulfilment (achievement) of their professional duties, shall:

- Hold paramount (more important than anything else) the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
- Perform services only in areas of their competence.
- Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
- Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.

- Avoid deceptive (misleading) acts.
- Conduct themselves honorably (possessing or characterized by high principles), responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance (increase) the honour, reputation (beliefs or opinions that are generally held about someone), and usefulness of the profession.

Rules of Practice

1-Engineers shall hold paramount (more important than anything else) the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

2-Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.

3- Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

4-Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.

5- Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts.

Professional Obligations

1-Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity

2-Engineers shall at all times strive (make great effort) to serve the public interest.

3-Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public.

4- Engineers shall not disclose (make secret information known), without consent (permission), confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer, or public body on which they serve.

5-Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests (involving in multiple interest).

6-Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or professional engagements (agreement) by untruthfully criticizing (indication of the fault) other engineers, or by other improper or questionable methods.

7- Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers. Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to the proper authority for action.

8-Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional activities, provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification (compensation for harm or loss). For services arising out of their practice for other than gross negligence, where the engineer's interests cannot otherwise be protected.

9- Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.

Why codes of ethics?

As with law or medicine, engineering is a learned profession.

- As a profession, engineering constantly involves the exercise of expert judgment and discretion in the performance of services.
- Engineers are expected to use their education, training, and experience in a manner that comports with public health and safety.
- But where do engineers turn for guidance in determining the most appropriate course of action to follow in the previously cited cases? One possible source is the law.
- Statutes, regulations, and court decisions certainly provide a basis to make decisions concerning conduct and behavior.
- However, the law does not address many issues related to appropriate professional conduct.
- Another possible resource might be colleagues, family members, or friends.
- While at times these sources may be extremely valuable as a sounding board, in some cases they lack the necessary education and training to provide useful

feedback, or the feedback might be biased or prejudiced by some fact or circumstance

- For that reason, professional organizations such as the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) develop codes of ethics to assist engineers in making decisions in their everyday practice and employment.
- Professional codes of ethics reflect basic "norms" (standard). Of conduct that exist within a particular profession and provide general guidance for a variety of issues.
- Except in the most basic circumstances, codes of ethics do not provide "answers" or "solutions" to ethical dilemmas (difficulty or problem) faced by engineers, but they do offer guideposts that can be helpful in evaluating the circumstances