

Ethical Conflicts in Engineering

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This two-hour seminar examines ethics as it applies to the engineering profession and as listed the Texas Engineering Practice Act. We will briefly review the history and philosophy of ethical thought and three modes of ethical reasoning (value ethics, utility ethics, and duty ethics). The NSPE code of ethics is presented as an example of a generalized code of ethics for engineering practice. The Texas Engineering Practice Act is reviewed in detail as it relates to ethical performance of engineering services. This seminar places great emphasis on reasoning and less emphasis on case study to examine the concepts of ethics as it applies to engineering. A certificate of completion will be awarded for two (2) professional development hours (PDHs) upon completion of this seminar.

Detailed Outline:

- History of Ethical Thought
- Modes of Ethical Reasoning
 - Value (Moral) Ethics
 - Utility Ethics
 - Duty Ethics
- Ethical Lessons in Fable and Literature
- Ethical and Legal Behavior
 - Whistle-blowing (Ethical considerations)
 - Secrecy (Ethical considerations)
- Codes of Ethics
 - NSPE Code (an example of a broad based code of ethics)
- The Texas Engineering Practice Act