

Practitioner Licensing Requirements and Codes of Conduct

Professional or ethical conduct is defined for each discipline by individual state licensing boards or a professional certification agency, depending upon the discipline, as described below. Practitioners in disciplines that are required to be licensed by the state in which they practice are typically subject to greater enforcement of and stronger penalties for infractions against rules of professional conduct than those who are participate in a voluntary certification program. States that license professional disciplines typically have their own statutes that describe professional conduct for that state (see sidebar for example).

- **Civil Engineer (Transportation, Traffic Operations, Construction and Maintenance).** States vary somewhat in licensure requirements, but all require that engineers conducting work for the public (i.e. for state agencies such as the Department of Transportation) must hold a Professional Engineer (PE) license. Engineering work must be signed by a state-authorized engineering seal (obtained with PE certification) prior to construction. Professional Engineers must adhere to the Code of Ethics for licensed engineers in their state, as well as the National Society of Professional Engineers (<http://www.nspe.org/Ethics/CodeofEthics/index.html>) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (<https://www.asce.org/ProgramProductLine.aspx?id=15294>), as applicable.
- **Project Manager.** Project managers are typically engineers, but can also be planners or landscape architects. Each would have the same training and licensure described for their particular profession. Depending on the state, they may have received additional training in effective project management.
- **Environmental Scientist.** Some environmental scientists obtain optional certification as a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) by demonstrating skills and experience in one of five environmental areas: assessment, documentation, operations, planning, research & education. Scientists who are CEP are required to adhere to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Environmental Professionals (<http://www.abcep.org/>). Another type of optional certification is as a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), which also has a Code of Ethics (<http://www.wetlandcert.org/code.html>).
- **Urban Forester.** Certification through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is optional and those who are certified must comply with the ISA Certified Arborist Code of Ethics (<http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification%5Cresources%5CISACertifiedArboristCodeofEthics.pdf>). Some states, such as California, have their own certification programs and requirements.
- **Transportation and Land Use Planners.** Certification through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) is not required, but is typical, for planning professionals. Planners who are part of AICP are required to adhere to the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (<http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethicscode.htm>). Some transportation planners also have a degree in civil engineering and may be certified as a Professional Engineer (PE).
- **Landscape Architect.** Landscape architects are required in most states to be licensed through the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and adhere to the ASLA Code of Professional Ethics (http://www.asla.org/Leadershiphandbook.aspx?id=4276&ItemIdString=e0fa05764_34_120_4276).
- **Urban Designer/Architect.** Each state requires the licensure of professional architects, though the prerequisite experience and requirements may vary by state. Licensed

architects are held to the American Institute of Architects' Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (<http://www.aia.org/about/ethicsandbylaws/index.htm>).

- **Archaeologist.** Archaeologists can optionally apply to be a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA). RPA's are held to a Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance: <http://www.rpanet.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=2>.
- **Historian/Architectural Historian, Social Scientist, Economist, Public Involvement Specialist, Public Health Professional, Marketing Professional.** No formal certification or rules of professional conduct apply.

North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct for Engineers

21-56.0700. STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

21-56.0701. RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- (a) In order to safeguard the **life, health, property and welfare of the public** and to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the professions of engineering and land surveying, the following rules of professional conduct are promulgated in accordance with G.S. 89C-20 and shall be binding upon every person holding a certificate of licensure as a Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor (licensee), and on all business entities authorized to offer or perform engineering or land surveying services in this state.
- (b) The licensee shall conduct the practice in order to **protect the public health, safety and welfare**. The licensee shall at all times recognize the primary obligation to protect the public in the performance of the professional duties. If the licensee's engineering or land surveying judgment is overruled under circumstances where the safety, health and welfare of the public are endangered, the licensee shall inform the employer, the contractor and the appropriate regulatory agency of the possible consequences of the situation.