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# AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Teaching Rubric

This is a resource to help academic programs meet the Planning Accreditation Board requirement for teaching the AICP Code of Ethics, and can be used by anyone interested in learning more about planning ethics.

It was created by the AICP Ethics Committee and approved by the AICP Commission in September 2018.

# AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct Teaching Rubric

Category	Objective	Elements	Outcome
<b>Definition</b>	Explore and debate the meaning of ethics in general to develop critical thinking for personal codes.	<p>Provide multiple general definition of ethics.</p> <p>Students refine and add their own definitions of ethics.</p> <p>Examples of professions that adopt a Code of Ethics and discussion as to why it is important.</p>	Students will be able to explain in general terms the meaning of ethics, how and why it is nuanced, why it is important, and how different people/organizations apply the idea.
<b>History</b>	Develop understanding of the origins of the AICP Code of Ethics.	Provide the origins of the AICP Code of Ethics, subsequent amendments, and who pledges to follow it.	Students will be able to explain what organizations created the AICP Code of Ethics, why it was created, and who administers it today.
<b>APA Ethical Principles in Planning</b>	Raise awareness of the existence and contents of APA's Ethical Principles in Planning.	Provide and review the APA Ethical Principles in Planning document, identify who should follow it, and highlight key components.	Students will be able to generally explain the APA's Ethical Principles in Planning and who it applies to in the profession.
<b>Contents of the AICP Code of Ethics</b>	Raise awareness of the existence and contents of the AICP Code of Ethics.	Provide and review the AICP Code of Ethics, its broad sections, and highlight key areas.	Students will be able to generally explain the sections, who it applies to, and application of the AICP Code of Ethics.
<b>Ethics Cases of the Year</b>	Develop an understanding of how the AICP Code of Ethics is applied in real life events. Develop an awareness of the broad and complex issues in applying ethics to planning.	Develop an understanding of how the AICP Code of Ethics is applied in real life events. Develop an awareness of the broad and complex issues in applying ethics to planning.	Students will understand how the AICP Code of Ethics is applied in real cases examples and begin to think about how the Code applies to their interactions.
<b>Discussion</b>	Develop an understanding of the thought process behind ethics personally and how others may apply ethics differently.	<p>Students discuss why having a AICP Code of Ethics is important.</p> <p>Students explore how the AICP Code of Ethics meets today's needs or might need to be edited to address current issues.</p>	Students will be able to recognize there are multiple viewpoints to ethics, learn how they would personal apply it in their professional lives, and understand how ethics can be a complex topic that needs to be examined across a spectrum of time and issues.

## Resources

### APA Website Resources for Ethics:

Overall: [planning.org/ethics](https://planning.org/ethics)

AICP Code of Ethics: [planning.org/ethics/ethicscode](https://planning.org/ethics/ethicscode)

APA Ethical Principles in Planning: [planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples](https://planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples)

AICP Ethics Cases of the Year Presentations: [planning.org/ethics/caseoftheyear](https://planning.org/ethics/caseoftheyear)

### Published Books on the AICP Code of Ethics:

Jerry Weitz, *Ethical Planning Practitioner*, 1st Edition, Routledge 2013.

Carol Barrett, *Everyday Ethics for Practicing Planners*, 1st Edition, Routledge 2002.

### Contents

Bonnie J. Johnson, Mary Kay Peck & Steven A. Preston (2017) "City Managers Have Ethics Too? Comparing Planning and City Management Codes of Ethics," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:2, 183-201, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2017.1289114

### Definitions

Elizabeth Howe & Jerome Kaufman (1979) "The Ethics of Contemporary American Planners," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 45:3, 243-255, DOI: 10.1080/01944367908976965

Howell S. Baum (1998) "Ethical Behavior Is Extraordinary Behavior; It's the Same as All Other Behavior: A Case Study in Community Planning," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 64:4, 411-423, DOI: 10.1080/01944369808976001

Mickey Lauria & Mellone Long (2017) "Planning Experience and Planners' Ethics," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:2, 202-220, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2017.1286946

### History (Profession)

Farmer, W.P. 2014. "WHO ARE WE?" *Planning* 80 (2): 3-4.

Eugénie L. Birch FAICP & Christopher Silver FAICP (2009) "One Hundred Years of City Planning's Enduring and Evolving Connections," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 75:2, 113-122, DOI: 10.1080/01944360902777031

Thomas L. Daniels (2009) "A Trail Across Time: American Environmental Planning From City Beautiful to Sustainability," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 75:2, 178-192, DOI: 10.1080/01944360902748206

David Charles Sloane (2006) "Longer View: From Congestion to Sprawl: Planning and Health in Historical Context," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 72:1, 10-18, DOI: 10.1080/01944360608976720

Michael P. Brooks (1988) "Four Critical Junctures in the History of the Urban Planning Profession: An Exercise in Hindsight," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 54:2, 241-248, DOI: 10.1080/01944368808976481

Eugenie Ladner Birch (1980) "Advancing the Art and Science of Planning Planners and Their Organizations 1909-1980," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 46:1, 22-49, DOI: 10.1080/01944368008977014

Allan David Heskin (1980) "Crisis and Response: A Historical Perspective on Advocacy Planning," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 46:1, 50-63, DOI: 10.1080/01944368008977015

## Resources (continued)

### History (Ethics and Planning)

Paul N. Ylvisaker (1961) "Diversity and the Public Interest: Two Cases in Metropolitan Decision-Making," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 27:2, 107-117, DOI: 10.1080/01944366108978439

Charles Abrams (1963) "The Ethics of Power in Government Housing Programs," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 29:3, 223-224, DOI: 10.1080/01944366308978067

John Friedmann (1969) "Notes on Societal Action," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 35:5, 311-318, DOI: 10.1080/01944366908977241

Sverre Strand (1971) "Models and Ethics," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 37:1, 42-44, DOI: 10.1080/01944367108977353

Stephen Grabow And & Allan Heskin (1973) "Foundations for a Radical Concept of Planning," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 39:2, 106-114, DOI: 10.1080/01944367308977664

Peter Marcuse (1976) "Professional Ethics and Beyond: Values in Planning," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 42:3, 264-274, DOI: 10.1080/01944367608977729

Richard E. Klosterman (1978) "Foundations for Normative Planning," *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*, 44:1, 37-46, DOI: 10.1080/01944367808976875

Richard E. Klosterman (1980) "A Public Interest Criterion," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 46:3, 323-333, DOI: 10.1080/01944368008977047

John Forester (1982) "Planning in the Face of Power," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 48:1, 67-80, DOI: 10.1080/01944368208976167

Lisa A. Schweitzer (2017) "Introduction: Planning Ethics in the 21st Century," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:2, 159-160, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2017.1290496

Andrew H. Whittemore (2017) "Racial and Class Bias in Zoning: Rezoning Involving Heavy Commercial and Industrial Land Use in Durham (NC), 1945–2014," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:3, 235-248, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2017.1320949

### APA Principles

William H. Lucy (1988) "APA's Ethical Principles Include Simplistic Planning Theories," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 54:2, 147-149, DOI: 10.1080/01944368808976465

## Resources (continued)

## Discussion (Topics for Starting)

Faucher, Staron, A.I.C.P. 2018. "Doing Good Versus Doing Well." *Planning* 84 (2): 44.

Jason R. Jurjevich, Amy L. Griffin, Seth E. Spielman, David C. Folch, Meg Merrick & Nicholas N. Nagle (2018) "Navigating Statistical Uncertainty: How Urban and Regional Planners Understand and Work With American Community Survey (ACS) Data for Guiding Policy," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 84:2, 112-126, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2018.1440182

Carolyn G. Loh & Rodney L. Arroyo (2017) "Special Ethical Considerations for Planners in Private Practice," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:2, 168-179, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2017.1286945

Lisa A. Schweitzer & Nader Afzalan (2017) 09 F9 11 02 9D 74 E3 5B D8 41 56 C5 63 56 88 C0: "Four Reasons Why AICP Needs an Open Data Ethic," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 83:2, 161-167, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2017.1290495

Salkin, Patricia E. 2017. "PLANNING ETHICS AND YOU." *Planning* 83 (7): 29-31.

Barnebey, Mark P. 2017. "Staff Reports: A Lawyer's Take." *Planning* 83 (3): 11.

Drinan, James M., J.D. 2017. "Finding a Path Forward." *Planning* 83 (1): 5.

Prior, Gareth, A.I.C.P. 2015. "Planning's Role in Social Justice." *Planning* 81 (11): 56.

Lisa Schweitzer (2014) "Planning and Social Media: A Case Study of Public Transit and Stigma on Twitter," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 80:3, 218-238, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2014.980439

Victoria A. Beard & Carolina S. Sarmiento (2014) "Planning, Public Participation, and Money Politics in Santa Ana (CA)," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 80:2, 168-181, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2014.953002

Bull, Marijoan, A.I.C.P. 2014. "Elevating Public Participation." *Planning* 80 (10): 48.

Farmer, W. P. 2013. "CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT." *Planning* 79 (3): 3-4.

Farmer, W.P. 2013. "SUMMER MUSINGS." *Planning* 79 (7): 3-4.

Beckman, John, A.I.C.P. 2013. "A Very Special Responsibility." *Planning* 79 (2): 52.

Farmer, W. P. 2012. "NOW SANDY." *Planning* 78 (10): 3-4.

Knack, Ruth Eckdish, A.I.C.P. 2012. "Ethics in the Time of Twitter." *Planning* 78 (10): 30-33.

Bonnie J. Johnson & Michael Graves (2011) "Keeping It Real," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 77:3, 214-231, DOI: 10.1080/01944363.2011.592128

## Resources (continued)

Jill L. Grant (2009) "Experiential Planning: A Practitioner's Account of Vancouver's Success," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 75:3, 358-370, DOI: 10.1080/01944360902965875

Robert E. Deyle, Timothy S. Chapin & Earl J. Baker (2008) "The Proof of the Planning Is in the Platting: An Evaluation of Florida's Hurricane Exposure Mitigation Planning Mandate," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 74:3, 349-370, DOI: 10.1080/01944360802229612

Rachelle Alterman (1995) "Can Planning Help in Time of Crisis?: Planners' Responses to Israel's Recent Wave of Mass Immigration," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 61:2, 156-177, DOI: 10.1080/01944369508975630

David J. Allor (1994) "Toward a Longer View and Higher Duty for Local Planning Commissions," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 60:4, 437-443, DOI: 10.1080/01944369408975603

Leonie Sandercock & Ann Forsyth (1992) "A Gender Agenda: New Directions for Planning Theory," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 58:1, 49-59, DOI: 10.1080/01944369208975534

Martin, Sandra Olivetti. 1989. "Above Reproach." *Planning* 55 (10): 18.

Jerome L. Kaufman (1985) "American and Israeli Planners: A Cross-Cultural Comparison," *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 51:3, 352-363, DOI: 10.1080/01944368508976422

## Approach Example to Teach one Category: Ethics Case of the Year

### Estimated Time:

➔ 90 Minutes (Shorter if examining fewer example cases, longer if examining all the sample cases)

### Speaking Points:

- ➔ Introduce AICP Code of Ethics.
- ➔ Ask students to pull out their phones and pull up the Code on the website: [planning.org/ethics/ethicscode](https://planning.org/ethics/ethicscode).
- ➔ Explain these are real life ethical considerations from the work force.

### Discussion Questions:

- ➔ Ask students to consider each scenario against the adopted Code and propose a course of action.
- ➔ Spend a class period conducting the Case of the Year presentation, available at: [planning.org/ethics/caseoftheyear](https://planning.org/ethics/caseoftheyear).
- ➔ Propose ethical thinking is not black and white, but shades of grey. Explore how slight changes in the scenario might impact whether the course of action is ethical or not.