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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Elements</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>Explore and debate the meaning of ethics in general to develop critical thinking for personal codes.</td>
<td>Provide multiple general definition of ethics. Students refine and add their own definitions of ethics. Examples of professions that adopt a Code of Ethics and discussion as to why it is important.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>History</strong></td>
<td>Develop understanding of the origins of the AICP Code of Ethics.</td>
<td>Provide the origins of the AICP Code of Ethics, subsequent amendments, and who pledges to follow it.</td>
<td>Students will be able to explain what organizations created the AICP Code of Ethics, why it was created, and who administers it today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APA Ethical Principles in Planning</strong></td>
<td>Raise awareness of the existence and contents of APA's Ethical Principles in Planning.</td>
<td>Provide and review the APA Ethical Principles in Planning document, identify who should follow it, and highlight key components.</td>
<td>Students will be able to generally explain the APA's Ethical Principles in Planning and who it applies to in the profession.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contents of the AICP Code of Ethics</strong></td>
<td>Raise awareness of the existence and contents of the AICP Code of Ethics.</td>
<td>Provide and review the AICP Code of Ethics, its broad sections, and highlight key areas.</td>
<td>Students will be able to generally explain the sections, who it applies to, and application of the AICP Code of Ethics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethics Cases of the Year</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
<td>Develop an understanding of the thought process behind ethics personally and how others may apply ethics differently.</td>
<td>Students discuss why having a AICP Code of Ethics is important. Students explore how the AICP Code of Ethics meets today's needs or might need to be edited to address current issues.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

APA Website Resources for Ethics:
Overall: planning.org/ethics
AICP Code of Ethics: planning.org/ethics/ethicscode
APA Ethical Principles in Planning: planning.org/ethics/ethicalprinciples
AICP Ethics Cases of the Year Presentations: planning.org/ethics/caseoftheyear

Published Books on the AICP Code of Ethics:

Contents

Definitions


History (Profession)

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


History (Ethics and Planning)


**APA Principles**
Discussion (Topics for Starting)


Resources (continued)


---

**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](http://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](http://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.