



# Ethical Codes

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# Why Ethical Codes?

- There is the concern that without a statement of ethics, unethical conduct will abound.
- Others are less concerned about good behaviour per se than they are about the bottom line.
- Some services and institutions that require professional ethics in order to function (e.g. accounting, law)
- Certain disciplines see ethical codes as essential to being recognized as a profession.
- Practitioners need them.



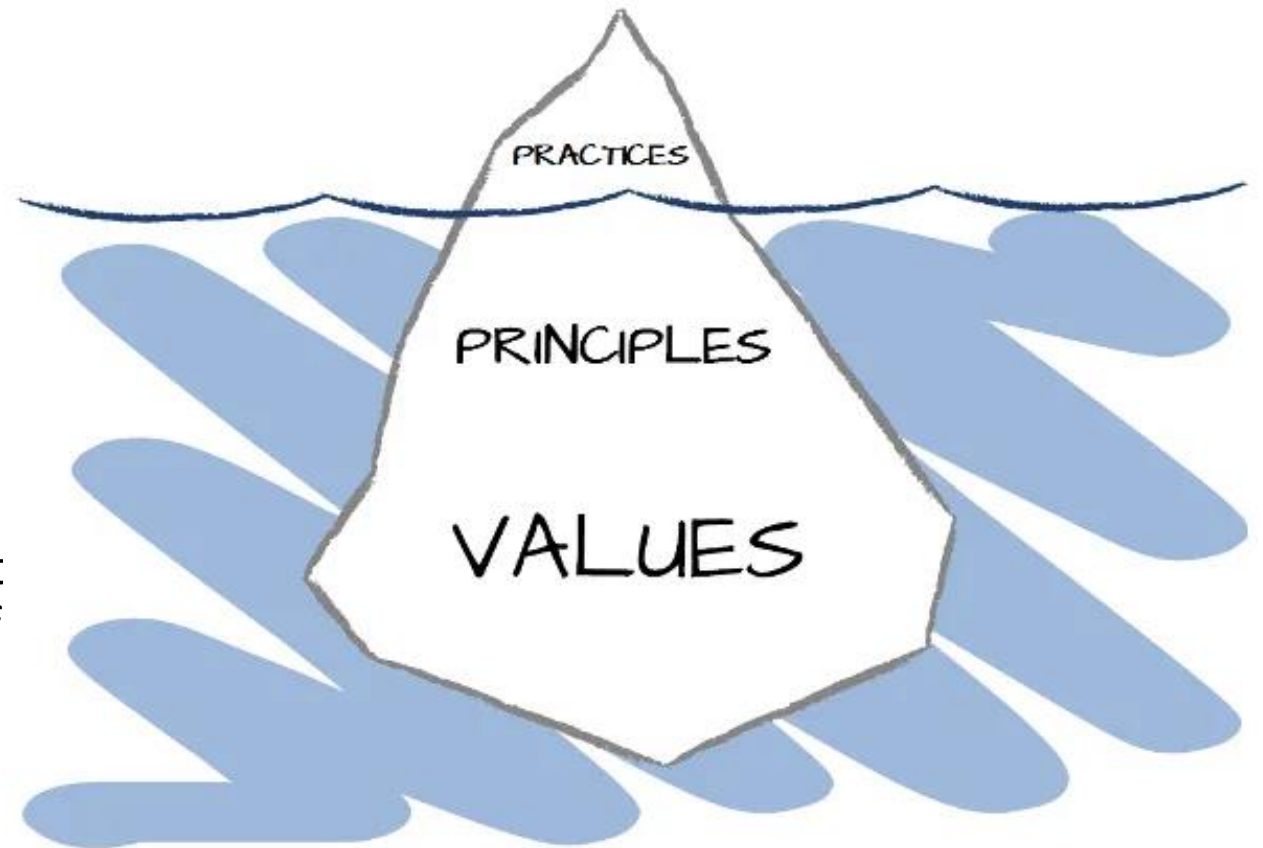
# Standards of Conduct

- Professional ethics can be characterized as imposing a higher standard of conduct
- Codes are normative (ie., they carry penalties) but the intent is usually to remind professionals of their duties
- Ethical codes are related to, but distinct from, legal obligations



# Values and Principles

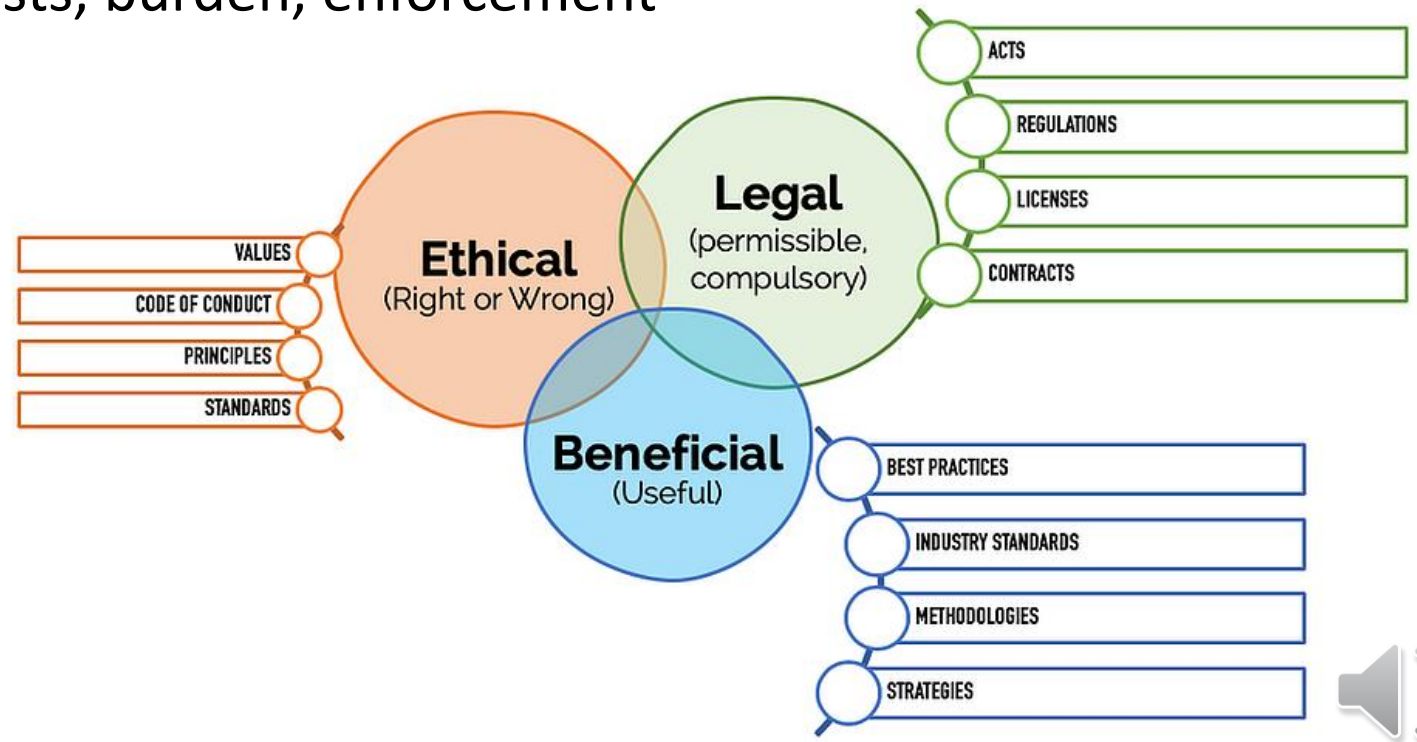
- Codes are divided by:
  - *Values* – general moral values, such as ‘honesty’ and ‘trustworthiness’
  - *Principles* – the ethical conditions or behaviors we expect
    - “An ethical principle is a statement concerning the conduct or state of being that is required for the fulfillment of a value; it explicitly links a value with a general mode of action.” (Cooper, 1998)





# Questions to Ask

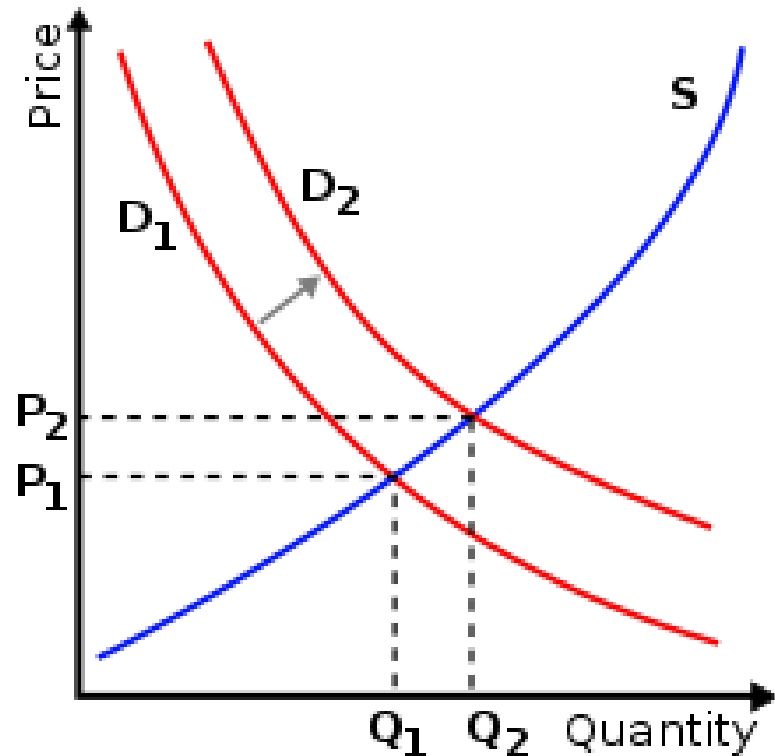
- Why write the codes?
- How do they differ?
  - Motivation, purpose, interests, burden, enforcement



<https://www.leancompliance.com/post/motivations>



# Values and Priorities



- Later in this module, we will consider the set of values and principles informing ethical codes
- We will also look at the bases for these values and principles



# Research Subjects

- Ethical codes vary a lot regarding who the research subject or client may be considered to be. For example:
  - Employer or funder
  - Colleagues, union or professional association
  - Stakeholders
  - Publishers or content providers
  - Society
  - Law and country
  - The environment



# Commonality?

The Canadian Psychologists' Code asserts that “all human beings have a moral right to have their innate worth as human beings appreciated and that this inherent worth is not dependent on a human being's culture, nationality, ethnicity, colour, race, religion, sex, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities, age, socio-economic status, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition, or status” (CPA, 2017:11)

- No other code lists all these factors.
- Many codes list none of them.





# The Ethical Codes Reader

- [https://ethics.mooc.ca/post/An Ethical Codes Reader](https://ethics.mooc.ca/post/An%20Ethical%20Codes%20Reader)
  - The first section is composed of short summaries of the more than 70 ethical codes considered
  - The second section is a longer presentation of the code, sometimes reproducing it in full

