

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

Professional ethics and practice 451 (BPE 451)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Module credits	8.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week, 2 tutorials per week
Language of tuition	Both Afr and Eng
Academic organisation	Dogmatics and Christian Ethics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The module has a twofold goal:

- (i) to make students aware of the moral dimension of the engineering profession, and
- (ii) to enhance the development of their ethical skills in dealing with moral issues in this practice. Attention is given to important concepts and approaches in professional ethics and to suitable methods in moral problem solving. A number of major issues engineers are confronted with are also dealt with: What does it take to be a responsible and honest engineer? To what extent does the engineer have the obligation to avoid risks and promote safety? How should engineers solve the tension between their professional obligations and expectations employers have? How far does the responsibility of engineers for the natural environment go? How can engineers act morally responsibly in an international context? During discussion classes a number of case studies illustrating these moral issues are thoroughly analysed.

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