

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

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 Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Department Systematic and Historical Theology

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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