

Aspirational Ethics

- Aspirational Ethics
 - Aspirational Ethics Questions
- 3 Varieties
 - Prohibitive
 - * “***Do*** no harm”
 - * *no bribes*
 - * *no conflicts of interest*
 - Preventative
 - * **Notify** proper authorities when the safety, health, or welfare of the public is threatened.
 - Aspirational
 - * “*Engineers in the fulfillment of their professional duties shall: 1. Hold paramount the safety, health and **welfare** of the public.*”
- Approaches to happiness / quality of life
 - Subjective (Hedonic)
 - * Associates quality of life with happiness or pleasure
 - * Meaningful work
 - * Relationships
 - * Problems
 - Peoples responses can be affected by many irrational circumstances
 - Objective (Eudaimonic)
 - * To flourish or have meaningfulness
 - * Aristotle
 - * Self-realization
 - * Problems
 - self-realization, meaningful work, ... are hard to measure
 - * Sinh’s Capabilities Approach
 - Ability to engage in activities
 - * Nussbaum’s Valued Activities
 - Live normal life
 - Clean water / food
 - Move
 - Senses & Imagination / Free Expression
 - Experiencing love / connections
 - Conception of good life
 - Respect and dignity
 - Environmental awareness
 - Recreational activity
 - Participation and preservation (material property)
 - Ben Linder
 - * Graduated MEEN from UofW
 - * Moved to Nicaragua and built a hydro plant
 - * Killed in political unrest

Aspirational Ethics Questions

- An engineer's duty to confidentiality may only be violated when the law demands it
 - False
- Whistle-blowing is the most extreme form of ...
 - Preventative ethics
- An engineer must not disclose confidential information.
 - Prohibitive
- An engineer should perform services only in his or her areas of expertise
 - Preventative
- Engineer Bruce is working in his free time to develop a new kind of engine that will reduce the carbon emissions from trucks.
 - Aspirational
- Engineer Paola is going overseas to help improve the sewage system in rural communities.
 - Aspirational
- An engineer should report any company misconduct to the proper authorities.
 - Preventative
- An engineer must not accept bribes.
 - Prohibitive
- By seeking to minimize harm that could result from the use of technology, we are employing ____ ethics.
 - Preventative
- "Capabilities" refers to the ability of people to engage in certain activities, thereby leading the kind of life they value.
 - True
- Which of the following correlate to higher levels of happiness?
 - good health
 - volunteerism
 - purpose and meaning in one's life
 - physical activity
- In more industrialized countries, the rate of depression is lower in groups for whom wealth and technology is less of a priority, such as the Amish.
 - True
- Which of the following may pose problems for the validity of surveys measuring life satisfaction based on subjective conditions?
 - there may be more to quality of life than simply feeling good
 - responses can be affected by all kinds of extraneous circumstances
- What conclusion can be drawn from the results of the global life satisfaction survey?
 - while technology can be a means to good quality of life, it is not sufficient
- Our extraordinarily high gross domestic product led the US to top the list of countries in terms of satisfaction.

- False
- There is considerable evidence that income and material possessions always increase the happiness and well-being of an individual.
 - False
- According to Aristotle, the “highest good” for a human being is tied to what makes it distinct from animals. A human “flourishes” when it is good at what makes it unique. What makes a human unique from other animals?
 - The ability to reason
- The “capabilities approach” refers to an approach toward ethics that prioritizes creating opportunities for people to flourish. Determining these opportunities lends itself to what kind of ethical framework?
 - Objective List Accounts
- What an engineer must do to minimize certain risks is contingent on their particular context (e.g., whether one is working in a developed or developing country).
 - True
- Prohibitive ethics are primarily ____ since they only forbid certain actions or give reasons against certain behavior.
 - Negative
- Why might an ethical system solely interested in promoting pleasure be inadequate?
 - This system would be unable to account for some of our meaningful activities (like relationships) that are not reducible to their making us happy.
- Professional codes in engineering make central an engineer’s obligation to protect the health, safety, and well-being of _____.
 - The Public
- “Preventative ethics” go beyond obligating an engineer to stop contributing to a project that is illegal. What else do “preventative ethics” demand?
 - That one go to the authorities to report the wrong doing.