ACM Code of Ethics

Computing professionals' actions change the world.

They should reflect upon the wider impact of their work, consistently supporting the public good.

General Ethical Principles.

Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing.

Avoid harm. Be honest and trustworthy. Be fair and take action not to discriminate. Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, and creative works, and computing artifacts. Respect privacy. Honor confidentiality.

Professional Leadership Principles.

Leaders bear a heightened responsibility to uphold and promote these principles, both within and through their organizations.

Ensure that the public good is the central concern during all professional computing work. Articulate, encourage acceptance of, and evaluate fulfillment of **social responsibilities** by members of the organization or group. Manage personnel and resources to **enhance the quality of working life**. Articulate, apply, and support policies and processes that **reflect the principles of the Code**. Create opportunities for members of the organization or group to **grow as professionals**. **Use care** when modifying or retiring systems. Recognize and **take special care of systems that become integrated into the infrastructure of society**.

Professional Responsibilities.

A computing professional should...

Strive to achieve **high quality** in both the processes and products of professional work. Maintain **high standards** of professional competence, conduct, and ethical practice. **Know and respect existing rules** pertaining to professional work. Accept and provide appropriate **professional review**. Give **comprehensive and thorough evaluations** of computer systems and their impacts, including analysis of possible risks. Perform **work only in areas of competence**. Foster **public awareness and understanding of computing**, related technologies, and their consequences. Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good. Design and implement systems that are **robustly and usably secure**.

The ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct expreses the conscience of the profession. It is designed to inspire and guide the ethical conduct of all computing professionals, including current and aspiring practitioners, instructors, students, influencers, and anyone who uses computing technology in an impactful way.

This one-page version is an adaptation. The full Code can be found online at https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics