

Chapter 01: Introduction to Professional Ethics

1. Which of the following is concerned with perspectives of right and proper conduct and involves an evaluation of actions on the basis of some broader cultural context or religious standard?

- a. Ethical conduct
- b. Community standards
- c. Morality
- d. Professionalism

ANSWER:

c

2. Robert runs into the office, unprepared and frustrated because he is late for his weekly appointment with a client. He is consistently late for his appointments. His behavior is:

- a. immoral.
- b. illegal.
- c. unethical.
- d. unprofessional.

ANSWER:

d

3. James and Mary attended counseling for marital problems. The counselor decided to meet each partner in an individual session before meeting them as a couple. James confided that he was HIV positive and was not going to tell his spouse because she would know that he had been unfaithful. The counselor decided to break confidentiality after their attempts to encourage James to inform his wife of his condition were unsuccessful. The counselor's action:

- a. was legal and ethical.
- b. may be considered ethical, but the practitioner could be in violation of a legal standard.
- c. was unethical but legal.
- d. was ethical and meets the American Counseling Association standard regarding contagious diseases, which states that practitioners must report when a client is HIV positive.

ANSWER:

b

4. Elizabeth, a beginning practitioner, counsels in a manner in which she merely acts in compliance with the law and follows minimal ethical standards. She is at the first level of ethical functioning, which is:

- a. personal ethics.
- b. aspiration ethics.
- c. mandatory ethics.
- d. basic ethics.

ANSWER:

c

5. The basic purpose of professional codes of ethics is to:

- a. provide a mechanism for professional accountability.
- b. protect professionals from lawsuits.
- c. set standards that must be followed no matter the situation.
- d. enhance the image of the helping professions.

ANSWER:

a

6. A formal complaint was filed against Harry for sexually harassing a female client. As a repeat offender, he was previously warned that a major sanction would be imposed if he continued his unethical actions. The ethics committee of the professional association to which he belongs most likely recommended that Harry:

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- a. be suspended with pay for one week.
- b. resign from this job.
- c. work without supervision on his word that he will not harass any client again.
- d. be expelled from the organization.

ANSWER:

d

7. The guiding moral principle that promotes self-determination or self-governing for decision making is called _____.

- a. nonmaleficence
- b. autonomy
- c. beneficence
- d. justice

ANSWER:

b

8. The guiding moral principle that refers to doing good for others and promoting well-being is called _____.

- a. nonmaleficence
- b. autonomy
- c. beneficence
- d. justice

ANSWER:

c

9. Richard is counseling a male client and encouraging him to go to college even though he is expected to take care of his aging parents. Which basic moral principle is Richard violating in making ethical decisions?

- a. Nonmaleficence
- b. Autonomy
- c. Beneficence
- d. Fidelity

ANSWER:

a

10. Jan, a tragedy survivor, is covered for six sessions by her insurance. Her counselor is in private practice and knows that Jan needs more sessions. She decides to offer Jan her services pro bono. In making the ethical decision to ensure that her client has equal access to services, the counselor is using the basic moral principal of _____.

- a. fidelity
- b. justice
- c. nonmaleficence
- d. autonomy

ANSWER:

b

11. Expulsion or suspension of members from professional associations:

- a. has no effect on the member.
- b. cannot be appealed.
- c. is never reported in the journals of the professional associations.
- d. is a major sanction.

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ANSWER:

d

12. In an attempt to convince her young client to practice safe sex, Valerie fabricated her own statistics and facts about the hazards of unprotected sex. In this instance, Valerie violated the principle of:

- a. fidelity.
- b. veracity.
- c. beneficence.
- d. justice.

ANSWER:

b

13. Which of the following models of ethical decision-making focuses primarily on the social aspects of decision making and redefines the process as being interactive rather than intrapsychic?

- a. Social constructionist
- b. Transcultural integrative
- c. Feminist
- d. Sociocultural

ANSWER:

a

14. Ethics codes tend to be:

- a. reactive rather than proactive.
- b. no longer relevant.
- c. clear and direct.
- d. proactive rather than reactive.

ANSWER:

a

15. Reporting requirements in codes:

- a. are specific and follow state laws and regulations.
- b. may not align with state laws or regulations.
- c. may not align with state laws but align with state regulations.
- d. should align with state laws but not align with state regulations.

ANSWER:

b

16. Which kind of ethics describes the highest standards of thinking and a professional's willingness to reflect on the effects their interventions may have on the welfare of their clients?

- a. Mandatory
- b. Principle
- c. Aspirational
- d. Positive

ANSWER:

c

17. Ethics that focuses on how professionals can harm clients as well as on how therapists can do better at helping clients is called _____.

- a. mandatory
- b. principle

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- c. aspirational
- d. positive

ANSWER:

d

18. The first essential step toward ethical decision-making is:

- a. identifying the problem or dilemma.
- b. knowing the applicable laws.
- c. choosing a solution.
- d. reviewing the process.

ANSWER:

a

19. Which of the following is limited in providing meaningful assistance to clinicians who are concerned with practicing at the highest level of ethical functioning?

- a. A community standard
- b. A professionalism standard
- c. A consultation approach
- d. A rule-based approach

ANSWER:

d

20. Which of the following statements is true with regard to ethical codes?

- a. Issues can be handled solely by relying on ethics codes.
- b. Conflicts sometimes emerge within ethics codes and among various organizations' codes.
- c. Ethics codes tend to be proactive rather than reactive.
- d. Codes do not conflict with institutional policies and practices.

ANSWER:

b

21. When practitioners weigh multiple and often competing demands and goals, they must use their:

- a. attorneys to help them work through ethical issues.
- b. former advisors as sounding boards.
- c. professional judgment.
- d. common sense.

ANSWER:

c

22. Which of the following is included in the major duties of regulating boards?

- a. Completing initial investigations into the ethical practice of new members to determine the possibility of unethical practice in the future
- b. Screening applications to determine appropriate candidates for the professional organization who will practice ethically
- c. Determining standards for admission into the profession
- d. Conducting evaluations of members' financial stability

ANSWER:

c

23. When a complaint is lodged against a member of a professional organization, the ethics committee _____.

- a. launches an investigation and deliberates on the case

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- b. dismisses specific charges within the complaint
- c. imposes sanctions nine times out of ten
- d. transfers the case to law enforcement

ANSWER:

a

24. Which ethical model addresses the need for including cultural factors in the process of resolving ethical dilemmas?

- a. Transcultural constructionist
- b. Social constructionist
- c. Transcultural integrative
- d. Feminist

ANSWER:

c

25. Autonomy refers to the _____.

- a. promotion of self-determination and self-governing
- b. avoidance of doing harm to clients
- c. act of increasing client dependency
- d. process used to lead a client to a specific decision

ANSWER:

a

26. Which of the following shows the common themes among the ethics codes of the various professional organizations?

- a. Being interested in the welfare of clients, avoiding harm and exploitation, and protecting client's confidentiality and privacy
- b. Practicing outside the scope of one's competence and utilizing mandatory ethics
- c. Avoiding discrimination of client ethnicity while providing minimal services
- d. Acting ethically responsible and focused on limiting professional sanctions

ANSWER:

a

27. Each major mental health professional organization has its own code of ethics; however, most of these codes are _____.

- a. specific and informative, giving answers to all ethical dilemmas
- b. broad and general, and do not provide specific answers to ethical dilemmas
- c. not necessary to obtain or read
- d. old and outdated, not pertaining to current ethical dilemmas

ANSWER:

b

28. For exercising ethical responsibility, ethics codes are _____.

- a. unnecessary
- b. necessary but not sufficient
- c. cookbooks
- d. non-limiting

ANSWER:

b

29. Which of the following helps practitioners expand their awareness and clarify their values in dealing with the challenges of their work?

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- a. Reading and reflecting on the standards
- b. Meditation and relaxation
- c. Years of experience
- d. Reading self-help books

ANSWER:

a

30. Obtaining consultation is important because _____.

- a. it creates a safety net when our actions are unethical
- b. it is better to have someone else know who your client is in case something happens
- c. it can uncover ideas that you have not considered, and it can also help you gain objectivity
- d. it is stated as essential in our personal code of ethics

ANSWER:

c

31. Conducting a self-assessment helps professionals, as it _____.

- a. uses case studies for critical thinking
- b. justifies your personal and professional code of ethics
- c. surveys your basic beliefs, attitudes, and values on specific topics
- d. does not serve any professional purpose

ANSWER:

c

32. What is a common theme of code of ethics?

- a. Issues cannot be handled solely by relying on ethics codes.
- b. Code of ethics do not address the gray zone.
- c. Professionals should strive for the highest level of ethical practice.
- d. Codes may conflict with institutional policies and practices.

ANSWER:

c

33. The three objectives fulfilled by a code of ethics include educating professionals, providing a mechanism for professional accountability, and _____.

- a. setting a community standard
- b. serving as a catalyst for improving practice
- c. striving for the highest level of ethical practice
- d. setting an ethical standard

ANSWER:

b

34. Which of the following is the body of rules that govern the affairs of people?

- a. Ethics
- b. Law
- c. Government
- d. Constitution

ANSWER:

b

35. Which of the following pertains to attitudes that provide direction in everyday living, and beliefs we hold about what

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constitutes right conduct?

- a. Values and morality
- b. Values and ethics
- c. Ethics and morality
- d. Ethics and community standards

ANSWER:

b