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# North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct

by

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North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct  
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Course Outline:

General Statutes

NCGS 89C

NCGS 89C-20

NCAC

21 NCAC 56

21 NCAC 56.07

Summary of Rules of Professional Conduct

NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

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Examination



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## **General Statutes**

Laws enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly (made up of the Senate and House of Representatives) are called statutes, and they are organized into two categories:

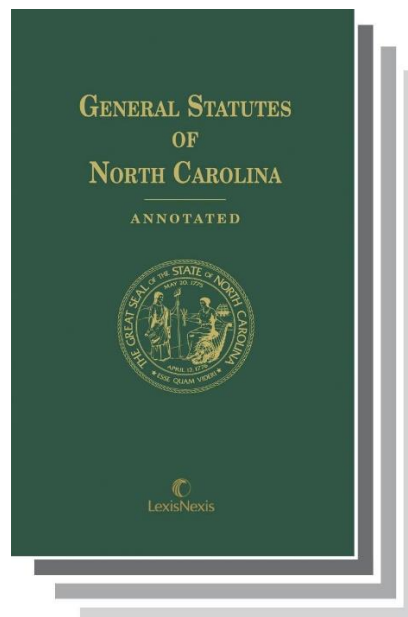
- Session Laws, which include appropriations bills, public laws, private laws, and local laws.
- General Statutes (GS or NCGS), which are the most current public laws.

The General Statutes are grouped into 169 chapters based on different areas of government. The following chapters are directly applicable to engineering:

- NCGS 55B – Professional Corporation Act
- NCGS 89C – Engineering and Land Surveying
- NCGS 143, Article 3D – Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Surveying Services (aka MiniBrooks Act)

NCGS 89C is the main chapter for practicing engineers and includes rules of conduct. The other two chapters listed above concern the rules for engineering companies and business contracts.

See the “Helpful Resources” section for the websites to view the latest statutes, rules, and the Board website.





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**NCGS 89C**

Chapter 89C is entitled “Engineering and Land Surveying” and it contains general requirements for professional engineers and the Board. The following are all the sections of NCGS 89C, with bold items being of particular importance for practicing professional engineers.

**NCGS 89C**

1. Short title
2. Declarations; prohibitions
- 3. Definitions**
4. State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors; appointment; terms
5. Board members; qualifications
6. Compensation and expenses of Board members
7. Vacancies; removal of member
8. Organization of the Board; meetings; election of officers
9. Executive director; duties and liabilities
10. Board powers
11. Secretary; duties and liabilities; expenditures
12. Records and reports of Board; evidence
13. General requirements for licensure
14. Application for licensure; license fees
15. Examinations
16. Certificates of licensure; effect; seals
- 17. Expirations and renewals of certificates**
18. Duplicate certificates
  - 18.1. Licensing of nonresidents
- 19. Public works; requirements where public safety involved**
  - 19.1. Engineer or professional land surveyor who volunteers...
- 20. Rules of professional conduct**
21. Disciplinary action--Reexamination, revocation, suspension, reprimand...
22. Disciplinary action--Charges; procedure
23. Unlawful to practice engineering or land surveying without licensure...
24. Licensure of corporations and business firms that engage in the practice...
25. Limitations on application of Chapter
  - 25.1. Supervision of unlicensed individuals by licensed person**
  - 25.2. Program of licensure by discipline
27. Invalid sections; severability
28. Existing licensure not affected



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**NCGS 89C-20**

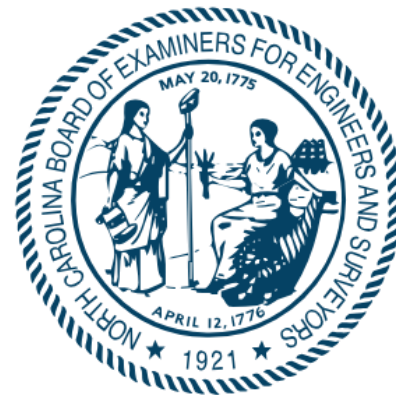
The following is a copy-paste of section NCGS 89C-20, which gives authority to the Board to determine and adopt rules for professional conduct.

89C-20. Rules of professional conduct

In the interest of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of the public, the Board shall adopt rules of professional conduct applicable to the practice of engineering and land surveying. These rules, when adopted, shall be construed to be a reasonable exercise of the police power vested in the Board of Examiners for Engineers and Land Surveyors. Every person licensed by the Board shall subscribe to and observe the adopted rules as the standard of professional conduct for the practice of engineering and land surveying and shall cooperate fully with the Board in the course of any investigation. In the case of violation of the rules of professional conduct, the Board shall proceed in accordance with G.S. 89C-22.

State Board

The state agency for professional engineering is the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (NCBES), also referred to as the Board. The Board oversees thousands of Professional Engineers and is given authority to manage and further regulate professional engineering.



The Board can make modifications to 21 NCAC 56, which are called the “Board Rules”

Policies and Guidelines

The Board also issues policy and guideline documents that complement the laws and rules. The following is the list of relevant guidance documents available on the state website:

- Signing and Sealing Guidelines
- Signing and Sealing Building Imaging Modeling/Integrated Project Delivery (BIM/IPD) Projects Guidelines – Revised 1-1-19
- Foundation Repair Guidelines Revised 12-13-17
- Seal Brochure
- NCDOI Guidance: Acceptance of Licensed Architect or Engineer Inspections



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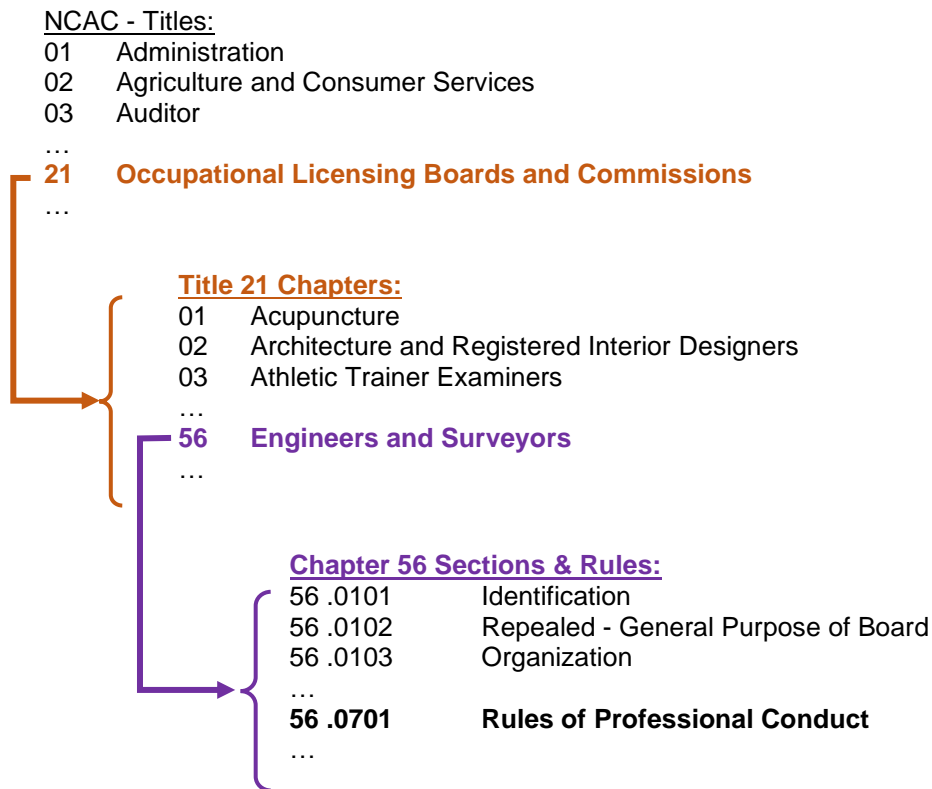
**NCAC**

State statutes are often high-level and lack details required for implementation. The general assembly delegates state agencies to manage implementation of statutes and to create rules and regulations that complement the statutes. The collection of rules is called the North Carolina Administrative Codes (NCAC). These rules generally have the full force and effect of laws.

NCAC is a collection of 30 “titles” from approximately 25 state agencies and more than 50 occupational licensing boards. Title 21 is “Occupational Licensing Boards and Commissions”. The NCAC further divides its contents into:

Title > Subtitle > Chapter > Section > Rule > Paragraph

NCAC Title 21, Chapter 56 (21 NCAC 56) is entitled “Engineers and Surveyors”. It contains many important details to guide the regular practice of engineering in North Carolina. See below for an organization tree with the 21 NCAC 56, Section 07, Rule 01 entitled **Rules of Professional Conduct** in bold.





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**21 NCAC 56**

The contents of chapter 21 NCAC 56, known as the “Board Rules” is copied here with rules **56.0701** and **56.0702** in bold:

21 NCAC 56 ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS.

56 .0101	IDENTIFICATION
56 .0102	REPEALED - GENERAL PURPOSE OF BOARD
56 .0103	ORGANIZATION
56 .0104	DESCRIPTION OF SEAL
56 .0201-.0212	REPEALED
56 .0301-.0302	REPEALED
56 .0303	DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS
56 .0304	SUSPENSION OF AUTHORITY TO EXPEND FUNDS
56 .0401	RECORDS OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
56 .0402	RECORDS OF APPLICATIONS
56 .0403	REPEALED - APPLICATION FILES
56 .0404-.0405	REPEALED
56 .0501	REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING
56 .0502	APPLICATION PROCEDURE: INDIVIDUAL
56 .0503	EXAMINATIONS
56 .0504	REPEALED - CERTIFICATES
56 .0505	EXPIRATIONS AND RENEWALS OF CERTIFICATES
56 .0506	WAIVER FOR LICENSEES SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY...
56 .0601	REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING
56 .0602	APPLICATION PROCEDURE: INDIVIDUAL
56 .0603	EXAMINATIONS
56 .0604	REPEALED - STANDARDS OF PRACTICE
56 .0605	REPEALED - CERTIFICATES
56 .0606	EXPIRATIONS AND RENEWALS OF CERTIFICATES
56 .0607	WAIVER FOR LICENSEES SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY...
56 .0608	SURVEYOR INTERN
<b>56 .0701</b>	<b>RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT</b>
<b>56 .0702</b>	<b>RULES OF CONDUCT OF ADVERTISING</b>
56 .0801	REPEALED - REQUIREMENTS
56 .0802	PROCEDURE
56 .0803	REPEALED - FEES
56 .0804	ANNUAL RENEWAL AND 30-DAY REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS
56 .0805	REPEALED - REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
56 .0901	OFFICES
56 .0902	BUSINESS TITLES
56 .1001-.1003	REPEALED
56 .1101	GENERAL
56 .1102	DESIGN



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56 .1103	STANDARD CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
56 .1104	REPEALED - CERTIFICATION WITH TEMPORARY PERMIT
56 .1105	FIRM SEAL
56 .1106	CERTIFICATION OF STANDARD DESIGN PLANS
56 .1107-.1108	REPEALED
56 .1201	PETITIONS
56 .1202	REPEALED - NOTICE
56 .1203	HEARINGS
56 .1204	REPEALED - EMERGENCY RULES
56 .1205	DECLARATORY RULINGS
56 .1301	IMPROPER PRACTICE BY A LICENSEE
56 .1302	UNLAWFUL PRACTICE BY AN UNLICENSED PERSON
56 .1401	GENERAL RULES
56 .1402	OPPORTUNITY FOR LICENSEE OR APPLICANT TO HAVE HEARING
56 .1403	NOTICE OF CONTEMPLATED BOARD ACTION TO APPLICANT: REQUEST FOR HEARING
56 .1404-.1405	REQUEST FOR HEARING
56 .1406-.1408	REPEALED
56 .1409	CONDUCT OF CONTESTED CASE
56 .1410	REPEALED - DISCOVERY
56 .1411	DEPOSITIONS
56 .1412	REPEALED - CONDUCT OF HEARING
56 .1413	DECISION OF BOARD
56 .1501	GENERAL
56 .1601	GENERAL
56 .1602	SURVEYING PROCEDURES
56 .1603	CLASSIFICATION OF BOUNDARY SURVEYS
56 .1604	MAPPING REQUIREMENTS FOR BOUNDARY SURVEYS
56 .1605	CLASSIFICATION OF VERTICAL CONTROL SURVEYS
56 .1606	SPECIFICATIONS FOR TOPOGRAPHIC AND PLANIMETRIC MAPPING
56 .1607	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS SURVEYS
56 .1608	CLASSIFICATION/LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM/GEOGRAPHIC ...
56 .1609	REPEALED - MINIMUM PHOTOGRAMMETRIC PRODUCTION ...
56 .1701	INTRODUCTION
56 .1702	DEFINITIONS
56 .1703	REQUIREMENTS
56 .1704	UNITS
56 .1705	DETERMINATION OF CREDIT
56 .1706	RECORDKEEPING
56 .1707	EXEMPTIONS
56 .1708	REINSTATEMENT
56 .1709	COMITY/OUT-OF-JURISDICTION RESIDENT
56 .1710	DUAL LICENSEES
56 .1711	FORMS
56 .1712	COMPLIANCE
56 .1713	SPONSORS





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**21 NCAC 56.07**

Section 21 NCAC 56.07 is named “Rules of Professional Conduct”, and it contains two Rules, with the first having the same name:

56 .0701	RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
56 .0702	RULES OF CONDUCT OF ADVERTISING

The entirety of Section 21 NCAC 56.07 is copied here:

**21 NCAC 56.07 - Rules of Professional Conduct**

**56.0701 – RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

(a) In order to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public and to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the professions of engineering and land surveying, the Rules of Professional Conduct in this Rule are adopted in accordance with G.S. 89C-20 and are binding upon every person holding a certificate of licensure as a Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor (licensee), and on all business entities authorized to offer or perform engineering or land surveying services in this state. All persons licensed under the provisions of Chapter 89C of the General Statutes are charged with having knowledge of the Board Rules, including the Rules of Professional Conduct, and are deemed to be familiar with their provisions and to understand them.

(b) A licensee's practice shall not violate the rules of this Chapter or G.S. 89C and shall be conducted in a manner to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The licensee shall at all times recognize the primary obligation to protect the public in the performance of their professional duties. If the licensee's engineering or land surveying judgment is overruled under circumstances where the safety, health and welfare of the public are endangered, the licensee shall inform the employer, the client, the contractor, other affected parties and any appropriate regulatory agency of the possible consequences of the situation.

(c) A licensee shall perform services only in areas of the licensee's competence and:

- (1) Shall undertake to perform engineering and land surveying assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical field of professional engineering or land surveying involved;
- (2) May accept an assignment or project requiring education or experience outside of the licensee's own areas of competence, but only to the extent that the services are restricted to those portions or disciplines of the assignment in which the licensee is qualified. All other portions or disciplines of such assignment shall be



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performed by associates, consultants, or employees who are licensed and competent in those portions or disciplines.

(d) A licensee shall not affix his or her signature or seal to any engineering or land surveying plan or document for which the licensee was not in responsible charge of the work through direct control and personal supervision. In order to exercise responsible charge of engineering or surveying work, either when delegating tasks to others, in circumstances where a licensee in responsible charge of the work is unavailable to complete the work, or the work is a design plan signed and sealed by an out-of-jurisdiction licensee (not a site adaptation of a standard design plan under Rule 21 NCAC 56 .1106), the licensee must possess full professional knowledge of and control over the work and shall:

- (1) Have and exercise the authority to review and to change, reject or approve both the work in progress and the final work product, through examination, evaluation, communication and direction throughout the development of the work;
- (2) Be personally aware of the scope of the work, its needs, parameters, limitations and special requirements;
- (3) Be capable of answering questions relevant to the surveying or engineering decisions made as part of the services provided, in sufficient detail to demonstrate knowledge of the proficiency in the work; and
- (4) Accept full responsibility for the work.
  - (A) The burden for demonstrating responsible charge lies with the licensee, including maintaining records, calculations, drawings, surveys, specifications, and other documents associated with the work.
  - (B) A licensee may affix his or her seal and signature to drawings and documents depicting the work of two or more professionals, provided it is designated by a note under the seal stating the specific subject matter for which each is responsible.

(e) A licensee shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner and:

- (1) Shall be objective and truthful in all professional reports, statements or testimony. The licensee shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements or testimony;
- (2) When serving as an expert or technical witness before any court, commission, or other tribunal, shall express an opinion only when it is founded upon adequate knowledge of the facts in issue, upon a background of technical competence in the subject matter, and upon honest conviction of the accuracy and propriety of the licensee's testimony;
- (3) Shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on engineering or land surveying matters connected with public policy which are inspired or paid for by an interested party, or parties, unless the licensee has prefaced the comment by



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- explicitly identifying the licensee's name, by disclosing the identities of the party or parties on whose behalf the licensee is speaking, and by revealing the existence of any pecuniary interest the licensee may have in the matters; and
- (4) Shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice or employment of another engineer or land surveyor, nor indiscriminately criticize another engineer or land surveyor's work in public. Indiscriminate criticism includes statements without valid basis or cause, that are not objective and truthful, or that fail to include all relevant and pertinent information. If the licensee believes that another engineer or land surveyor is guilty of misconduct or illegal practice, such information shall be presented to the North Carolina Board of Examiners in the form of a complaint.
- (f) A licensee shall avoid conflicts of interest and:
- (1) Shall inform the employer or client, and any reviewing agency, of any business association, interests, or circumstances which could influence judgment or the quality of services;
  - (2) Shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are disclosed to, and agreed to, in writing, by all interested parties;
  - (3) Shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable considerations from material or equipment suppliers for specifying their products;
  - (4) Shall not solicit or accept gratuities, directly or indirectly, from contractors, their agents, or other parties dealing with the client or employer in connection with work for which the licensee is responsible;
  - (5) When in public service as a member, advisor, or employee of a governmental body or department, shall not participate in considerations or actions with respect to services provided by the licensee or the licensee's firm in private engineering and land surveying practices;
  - (6) Shall not solicit or accept an engineering or land surveying contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of the licensee's firm serves as a member; and
  - (7) Shall not attempt to supplant another engineer or land surveyor in a particular employment after becoming aware that the other has been selected for the employment.



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- (g) A licensee shall solicit or accept work only on the basis of qualifications and:
- (1) Shall not offer to pay, either directly or indirectly, any commission, political contribution, gift, or other consideration in order to secure work, exclusive of securing salaried positions through employment agencies;
  - (2) Shall compete for employment on the basis of professional qualification and competence to perform the work. The licensee shall not solicit or submit proposals for professional services containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive or unfair statement or claim regarding the cost, quality or extent of services to be rendered;
  - (3) Shall, with regard to fee bidding on public projects, comply with the provisions of G.S. 143-64.31 et seq., (or for federal projects, the Brooks Act, 40 U.S. Code 541 et seq.) and shall not knowingly cooperate in a violation of any provision of G.S. 143-64.31 et seq. (or of 40 U.S. Code 541 et seq.); and
  - (4) Shall not falsify or permit misrepresentation of academic or professional qualifications and shall only report educational qualifications when a degree or certificate was awarded, unless it is stated that no degree or certificate was awarded. The licensee shall not misrepresent degree of responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Brochures or other presentations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or past accomplishments with the intent and purpose of enhancing qualifications and work.
- (h) A licensee shall perform services in an ethical manner, as required by the Rules of Professional Conduct (21 NCAC 56 .0701), and in a lawful manner and:
- (1) Shall not knowingly associate with or permit the use of the licensee's name or firm name in a business venture by any person or firm which the licensee knows, or has reason to believe, is engaging in business or professional practices of a fraudulent or dishonest nature or is not properly licensed; and
  - (2) If the licensee has knowledge or reason to believe that another person or firm may be in violation of the Board Rules (21 NCAC 56) or of the North Carolina Engineering and Land Surveying Act (G.S. 89C), shall present such information to the Board in writing in the form of a complaint and shall cooperate with the Board in furnishing such further information or assistance as may be required by the Board. The licensee shall timely respond to all inquiries and correspondence from the Board and shall timely claim correspondence from the U. S. Postal Service, or other delivery service, sent to the licensee from the Board. Timely is defined as within the time specified in the correspondence, or if no time is specified, within 30 days of receipt. Certified mail is timely claimed if prior to being returned by the Post Office to the Board office.



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(i) A Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor who has received a reprimand or civil penalty or whose professional license is revoked, suspended, denied, refused renewal, refused reinstatement, put on probation, restricted, or surrendered as a result of disciplinary action by another jurisdiction is subject to discipline by the Board if the licensee's action constitutes a violation of G.S. 89C or the rules adopted by the Board.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 89C-17; 89C-20;  
... Amended Eff. May 1, 2024.*

**56.0702 – RULES OF CONDUCT OF ADVERTISING**

(a) The Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor shall not make exaggerated, misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about professional qualifications, experience or performance in brochures, correspondence, listings, or other public communications.

(b) The prohibitions listed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule include, but are not limited to, the use of statements containing a material misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact necessary to keep the statement from being misleading; statements intended or likely to create an unjustified expectation; and statements containing a prediction of future success.

(c) Consistent with the foregoing, the Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor may advertise for recruitment of personnel.

(d) Consistent with the foregoing, the Professional Engineer or Professional Land Surveyor may prepare articles for the lay or technical press. Such articles shall not imply credit to the author for work performed by others.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 89C-20;  
... Eff. April 27, 2019.*



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**Summary of Rules of Professional Conduct**

21 NCAC 56.07 applies to licensed engineers and surveyors. The following are key takeaways for practicing licensees, organized by each paragraph.

**21 NCAC 56.0701:**

A licensee shall:

- a) Have knowledge of and follow the Board Rules, including these Rules of Professional Conduct.
- b) Practice without violating the rules of Chapter 56, NCGS 89C, and in a manner to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
- c) Perform services only in areas of the licensee's competence.
- d) Only sign and seal documents for which the licensee is in responsible charge of the work through direct control and personal supervision.
- e) Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
- f) Avoid conflicts of interest.
- g) Solicit or accept work only on the basis of qualifications.
- h) Perform services in an ethical and lawful manner.
- i) Be subject to discipline by the Board after having received disciplinary action in another jurisdiction for actions that also constitute a violation of NCGS 89C or the rules adopted by the Board.

**21 NCAC 56.0702:**

- a) A licensee shall not make exaggerated, misleading, deceptive or false statements or claims about professional qualifications, experience or performance.
- b) Prohibitions in Paragraph A include:
  - i. Use of statements containing a material misrepresentation of fact.
  - ii. Omitting a fact that keeps the statement from being misleading.
  - iii. Statements intended or likely to create an unjustified expectation.
  - iv. Statements containing a prediction of future success.
- c) A licensee may advertise for recruitment of personnel.
- d) A licensee may prepare articles for the public, provided that proper credit is given to authors for work performed by others.



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## **NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers**

The 21 NCAC 56.07 rules of professional conduct are similar to those found in the “Code of Ethics for Engineers” by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). This is the most widely accepted document for engineering ethics in the United States, with main statements copied here.



### **I. Fundamental Canons**

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

### **II. Rules of Practice**

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.
3. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts.



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**III. Professional Obligations**

1. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.
3. Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public.
4. Engineers shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer, or public body on which they serve.
5. Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests.
6. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or professional engagements by untruthfully criticizing other engineers, or by other improper or questionable methods.
7. Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers. Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to the proper authority for action.
8. Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional activities, provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification for services arising out of their practice for other than gross negligence, where the engineer's interests cannot otherwise be protected.
9. Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.





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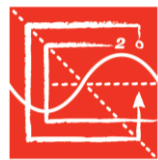
### **NCEES Model Rules**

The 21 NCAC 56.07 rules of professional conduct are also similar to those found in the “Model Rules” by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). This document is meant to be utilized by states for making rules for regulating professional engineering. Those with licenses in multiple states may find it helpful to learn the Model Rules of Professional Conduct since most model rules apply to most states.

# MODEL RULES

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January 2024



# NCEES

*advancing licensure for  
engineers and surveyors*

The section on professional conduct is copied here:

### **240.15 Rules of Professional Conduct**

To safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to maintain integrity and high standards of skill and practice in the engineering and surveying professions, the rules of professional conduct provided in this section shall be binding upon every licensee and on all firms authorized to offer or perform engineering or surveying services in this jurisdiction.

#### **A. Licensee’s Obligation to the Public**

1. Licensees shall be cognizant that their first and foremost responsibility is to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public when performing services for clients and employers.
2. Licensees shall sign and seal only those plans, surveys, and other documents that conform to accepted engineering and surveying standards and that safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.



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3. Licensees shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate when their professional judgment is overruled when the health, safety, or welfare of the public is endangered.
4. Licensees shall, to the best of their knowledge, include all relevant and pertinent information in an objective and truthful manner within all professional documents, statements, and testimony.
5. Licensees shall express a professional opinion publicly only when it is founded upon an adequate knowledge of the facts and a competent evaluation of the subject matter.
6. Licensees shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on engineering and surveying matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they explicitly identify the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking and reveal any interest they have in the matters.
7. Licensees shall not partner, practice, or offer to practice with any person or firm that they know is engaged in fraudulent or dishonest business or professional practices.
8. Licensees who have knowledge or reason to believe that any person or firm has violated any rules or laws applying to the practice of engineering or surveying shall report it to the board, may report it to appropriate legal authorities, and shall cooperate with the board and those authorities as requested.
9. Licensees shall not knowingly provide false or incomplete information regarding an applicant in obtaining licensure.
10. Licensees shall comply with the licensing laws and rules governing their professional practice in each of the jurisdictions in which they practice.

B. Licensee's Obligation to Employer and Clients

1. Licensees shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields of engineering or surveying involved.
2. Licensees shall not affix their signatures or seals to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any such plan or document not prepared under their responsible charge.
3. Licensees may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project if each technical segment is signed and sealed by the licensee responsible for preparation of that technical segment.
4. Licensees shall not reveal facts, data, or information obtained in a professional capacity without the prior consent of the client, employer, or public body on which they serve except as authorized or required by law or rules.
5. Licensees shall not solicit or accept gratuities, directly or indirectly, from contractors, their agents, or other parties in connection with work for employers or clients.



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6. Licensees shall disclose to their employers or clients all known or potential conflicts of interest or other circumstances that could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their professional service or engagement.
7. Licensees shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to in writing by all interested parties.
8. Licensees shall not solicit or accept a professional contract from a governmental body on which a principal or officer of their organization serves as a member. Conversely, licensees serving as members, advisors, or employees of a government body or department, who are the principals or employees of a private concern, shall not participate in decisions with respect to professional services offered or provided by said concern to the governmental body that they serve.
9. Licensees shall not use confidential information received in the course of their assignments as a means of making personal profit without the consent of the party from whom the information was obtained.

C. Licensee's Obligation to Other Licensees

1. Licensees shall not falsify or permit misrepresentation of their, or their associates', academic or professional qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their degree of responsibility in prior assignments nor the complexity of said assignments. Presentations incidental to the solicitation of employment or business shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or past accomplishments.
2. Licensees shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any commission, or gift, or other valuable consideration in order to secure work, and shall not make any political contribution with the intent to influence the award of a contract by public authority.
3. Licensees shall not injure or attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other licensees, nor indiscriminately criticize other licensees' work.
4. Licensees shall make a reasonable effort to inform another licensee whose work is believed to contain a material discrepancy, error, or omission that may impact the health, safety, or welfare of the public, unless such reporting is legally prohibited.



North Carolina Rules of Professional Conduct  
*A SunCam online continuing education course*

**Helpful References**

North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors

General Website:	<a href="https://www.ncbels.org/">https://www.ncbels.org/</a>
Licensee Portal.:	<a href="https://www.memberbase.com/ncbelsindividual/login.aspx">https://www.memberbase.com/ncbelsindividual/login.aspx</a>
License Renewal:	<a href="https://www.memberbase.com/ncbelsIndividual/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FncbelsIndividual%2Fdefault.aspx">https://www.memberbase.com/ncbelsIndividual/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2FncbelsIndividual%2Fdefault.aspx</a>
Cont. Education:	<a href="https://www.ncbels.org/continuing-education/individuals/">https://www.ncbels.org/continuing-education/individuals/</a>
Guidance Docs:	<a href="https://www.ncbels.org/general-info/policies-guidelines/">https://www.ncbels.org/general-info/policies-guidelines/</a>
Laws & Rules:	<a href="https://www.ncbels.org/general-info/rules-laws/">https://www.ncbels.org/general-info/rules-laws/</a>
NCGS 89C:	<a href="http://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_89C">www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_89C</a>
21 NCAC 56:	<a href="http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp">http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp</a>

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) (2024) “Model Rules”. [https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Model\\_Rules\\_January-2024\\_web.pdf](https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Model_Rules_January-2024_web.pdf)

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) (2019) “NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers”. <https://www.nspe.org/resources/ethics/code-ethics>

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) (2023) “NSPE Position Statement No. 10-1778 - Responsible Charge”. <https://www.nspe.org/resources/issues-and-advocacy/professional-policies-and-position-statements/responsible-charge>