Homework

Instructions: This homework should be completed individually. Submit your homework as a PDF file.

1. A code of ethics is a set of principles intended to guide professionals in conducting their work with honesty, integrity, and accountability. These codes help individuals navigate complex decisions and follow ethical behavior in the workplace.

Some codes of ethics apply broadly to an entire profession, while others are specific to a company or organization. Many professional associations create codes of ethics to establish shared values and best practices for their members. These documents can vary in structure and tone—some are **aspirational**, setting ideal standards, while others are **enforceable**, with clear rules and consequences for violations.

Find a professional ethics code for a future career you are interested in. **Tell me why you chose the specific code.**

Here are some sample codes:
The professional engineering code of ethics:
https://www.nspe.org/resources/ethics/code-ethics
Note that this is for professional engineers, which is a specific higher level engineering position. There are specific codes for mechanical, electrical, biomedical, civil, etc. engineers as well.
For chemistry, one is at:
https://www.acs.org/careers/career-services/ethics.html
There are two types of codes of ethics, for those intending to go into academic careers or professional chemistry. Choose whichever applies to you.
There's also a global chemist's code:
https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/global/international/scifreedom/global-chemists-code-of-ethics-fi-2016.pdf
And, the Hague
https://www.opcw.org/hague-ethical-guidelines

If you're not sure where to find a code that applies to you, try searching online. I found all these by searching.
Note: Include a web link to the code you chose in your homework for reference.

2. After reviewing the code, write down a short document, no more than one page, summarizing what kind of information the code contains, its tone (i.e., is the code aspirational or enforceable?), and to which specific professions it seems to apply. In the summary, don't rewrite the items in the code, but give a general description of them. For

example, if we were to be summarizing the "Statement on Professional Ethics" from the American Association of University Professors available at https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-professional-ethics, we might say something that starts like this:

"The Statement on Professional Ethics from the American Association of University Professors is a document that describes the general professional responsibilities of professors in academic careers. The code focuses on guidance, which means it is an aspirational code. It is not an enforceable code. The code leaves the responsibility of enforcement of ethical behavior to the academic institutions.

The document considers the responsibilities of professors in five main categories: 1) those relating to the scholarly responsibilities of the professor as creators, users and communicators of knowledge, 2) those relating to the education of the new generation in fundamentals of their discipline, 3) those relating to their membership in a community of scholars within their department, institution and the larger discipline, 4) those relating to their role as an employee of an academic institution, and 5) those relating to their role as a community member in the broader society and, specifically, in respect to academic freedom.

In the first category, the code describes the responsibilities of a professor as a scholar in their discipline. Professors are expected to advance knowledge in their subject by seeking and describing truth accurately. This requires that they continuously develop their scholarly competence, and be thoughtful and critical in using, expanding and sharing knowledge. Professors also must ensure that their other interests never interfere with or compromise their pursuit of knowledge.

The second category describes a professor's responsibilities to their students. Professors are expected to support students' academic growth by upholding rigorous intellectual and ethical standards. They should treat students with respect, assign grades fairly based on merit, and maintain confidentiality of student information. Additionally, they foster a professional and supportive environment, refraining from any misuse of authority or inappropriate behavior toward students. They give credit for significant academic contributions from students and guard students' intellectual freedom…"

3. Many professions rely on measurements, estimates, or mathematical models to make decisions. Are there any parts of your chosen ethical code that address, directly or indirectly, how to handle uncertainty, estimation, or potential errors in mathematical models in professional decision-making? If so, clearly describe one or two places where these issues are addressed. If not, why do you think these might be important to include in the codes of ethics?