

Ethical Conundrums, Quandaries, Predicaments, and Other Choice Words . . .

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Core Ethical Principles

- Autonomy
 - Respect decisions that others make about their own lives
- Beneficence
 - Obligation to bring about good through our actions
- Nonmaleficence
 - Obligation to not do harm, or minimize the harm that we do
- Fidelity
 - Doing what we promised
- Justice
 - Obligation to treat all people equally, fairly, and impartially

Ethical Decision Making

- Often focus is on the legal aspects and what is required by law
 - This usually is the BARE minimum of standards
- Disciplines have their codes of ethics that also specify standards to consider
- Also have individual factors that your personal beliefs and values enter into your decisions
 - Examples
 - Spanking
 - Family planning
 - Sex outside marriage

Ethical Decision Making

- Answer is not “right vs. wrong”
- Need to look at the comparative ethicality of the options, keeping your personal biases and beliefs in mind (the “mirror of nature” fallacy)
- Need to consider likely outcomes
- Also need to factor in all the rules and mandates of your profession (i.e., informed consent, mandatory reporting, confidentiality, etc.)

Ethical Decision Making

- Most of us learned “rules”, not ethics in grad school
- Learn ethics by DOING ethics (can’t say you can play basketball if you don’t step out on the court)
- But having a “compass” may help
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfIdNV22LQM>
- So . . . We’re going to DO some ethics today

Handouts: Utilitarianism

Handouts: Deontology

Case Scenarios

We will DO ethics for the remainder of the time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDnO4nDA3kM>