

# Exploring Accounting Professional Ethics and Standards from the Perspective of Beginners

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**Abstract:** As important recorders and supervisors of economic activities, accountants must adhere to certain professional ethics and standards in their professional practice. This article, from the perspective of beginners, explores the basic concepts, importance, and implications of accounting professional ethics and standards, aiming to deepen the understanding of accounting professional responsibilities and behavioral guidelines.

**Keywords:** Accounting Professional Ethics; Accounting Standards; Beginners; Professional Responsibilities

## Introduction

Accounting is a profession with a long history and continuous development. With the increasing globalization of the economy and the intensification of market competition, the authenticity, integrity, and transparency of accounting information are crucial for enterprise decision-making, investor protection, and the stable operation of the market economy. Therefore, professional ethics and standards in accounting have become an indispensable part of accounting work.

### 1. Basic Concepts of Accounting Professional Ethics and Standards

Accounting professional ethics refers to the ethical principles and behavioral norms that accounting practitioners should adhere to in fulfilling their responsibilities. It reflects the inherent requirements of the accounting profession and societal expectations of the accounting profession. On the other hand,

accounting standards refer to specific provisions such as accounting principles and accounting systems. They provide operational guidelines and technical standards for accounting work.

### 2. Importance of Accounting Professional Ethics and Standards

#### 2.1 Maintaining the Authenticity of Accounting Information

Accounting professional ethics and standards play a crucial role in maintaining the authenticity of accounting information. Accountants, as recorders and reporters of a company's financial condition, directly impact the correctness of economic decisions. Therefore, they must adhere to accounting professional ethics by providing truthful, accurate, and complete accounting information. This not only fulfills their professional responsibilities but also is a responsibility to the company, investors, and the public. By adhering to professional ethics and standards, accountants can



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ensure the authenticity of accounting information, providing robust data support for the company's development, and also providing reliable decision-making basis for investors.

## **2.2 Promoting Fair Transactions in the Market Economy**

Accounting professional ethics and standards have an irreplaceable role in promoting fair transactions in the market economy. In an increasingly complex market environment, accounting information becomes a crucial basis for business and investor decisions. Accountants who adhere to professional ethics and standards provide accurate, transparent, and timely financial information, painting a true and comprehensive economic picture for businesses and investors. This not only enhances the confidence of market participants but also provides them with an equal competitive environment. More importantly, this trustworthy financial information helps maintain fair transaction order in the market economy, preventing information asymmetry and fraudulent behavior.

## **2.3 Enhancing the Social Image of the Accounting Profession**

Accounting professional ethics and standards have a profound impact on enhancing the social image of the accounting profession. As recorders and supervisors of economic activities, the behavior of accountants directly affects the public's trust and respect for the accounting profession. Noble professional ethics, such as integrity, fairness, confidentiality, along with rigorous professional standards, ensure the professionalism and independence of accountants in their work<sup>[1]</sup>. The demonstration of these qualities has established a positive image of the accounting profession in society, earning widespread praise and respect. Moreover, this positive social image inspires accountants to continuously improve their professional competence and ethical standards, contributing to the sustainable development of the accounting profession and the stability and prosperity of the socio-economy.

# **3. Main Contents of Accounting Professional Ethics**

## **3.1 Integrity**

Integrity is one of the fundamental and core principles of accounting professional ethics. It requires

accounting professionals to maintain a high level of integrity in fulfilling their duties and to firmly uphold the authenticity and accuracy of accounting information. This means that accountants must strictly adhere to relevant laws, regulations, and accounting standards when performing tasks such as accounting recording, reporting, and auditing, and refrain from any falsification, misleading statements, or omission of important information. Integrity is the cornerstone of the accounting profession, as it directly affects the credibility of accounting information and the quality of accounting work. If accountants lose integrity, the accounting information they provide may lose its authenticity, which could severely harm the interests of investors and disrupt the fair trading order of the market economy. Therefore, accountants must always maintain a clear mind, adhere to the bottom line of integrity, resist the temptation of personal or group interests, and consistently uphold the authenticity and credibility of accounting information. Additionally, integrity is also a reflection of the personal character of accountants. They not only demonstrate outstanding performance at work but also maintain their moral integrity when facing various temptations and pressures, thereby adding brilliance to the reputation and image of the accounting profession. Therefore, we should attach great importance to the status and role of integrity in accounting professional ethics and continuously enhance our awareness of integrity.

## **3.2 Confidentiality**

As core handlers of corporate economic information, accountants often deal with a large amount of business secrets and client information, which are often crucial to the survival of the company and fair competition in the market. Therefore, accountants must have a strong sense of confidentiality and safeguard all confidential information they know in their work. Confidentiality obligations not only test the personal character of accountants but also uphold the overall credibility of the accounting profession. Once accounting information is leaked, it can bring immeasurable losses to companies and may disrupt the fair competition order in the market, leading to a series of chain reactions. Therefore, accountants must always remember their confidentiality responsibilities and strictly abide by confidentiality regulations, whether in the workplace

or in daily life, to ensure the security of accounting information. Furthermore, confidentiality obligations are also a sacred duty assigned to accountants by the law. Within the framework of laws and regulations, accountants have a responsibility and obligation to protect business secrets and client information from infringement. Under no circumstances should this information be disclosed unless otherwise specified by law. This not only demonstrates respect for the law but also embodies the practice of their own professional ethics. Confidentiality is an important part of accounting professional ethics and a professional bottom line that accountants must adhere to. Only by doing so can they earn the trust of companies, maintain market fairness, and provide strong guarantees for the healthy development of the accounting profession.

### 3.3 Independence

Independence is a crucial aspect of accounting professional ethics. It requires accountants to maintain an objective and impartial attitude when performing duties such as auditing and consulting, free from any external influences, to ensure the truthfulness and accuracy of accounting work. Independence is one of the cornerstones of the accounting profession, as it relates to the quality and credibility of accounting work. If accountants lose independence in their work, the accounting information they provide may lose objectivity and impartiality, which could severely harm the interests of investors and disrupt the fair trading order of the market economy. To maintain independence, accountants must be vigilant against potential conflicts of interest. When performing duties such as auditing and consulting, they should avoid establishing overly intimate relationships with clients or other relevant parties to avoid affecting their judgment. Additionally, accountants should adhere to principles and resist any illegal interference and pressure from external sources to ensure that they can work independently and objectively<sup>[2]</sup>. Furthermore, independence is also a reflection of the personal professional qualities of accountants. An accountant with noble professional ethics is undoubtedly someone who adheres to principles, is not afraid of power, and is willing to take responsibility. They not only demonstrate outstanding performance at work but also maintain their moral integrity when facing various temptations and pressures, thereby adding brilliance to

the reputation and image of the accounting profession.

### 3.4 Professional Competence

With the deepening of the market economy and the continuous advancement of technology, accounting work is becoming increasingly complex and specialized. This requires accountants to have solid professional knowledge and superb professional skills to meet current and future work challenges. Professional competence is not only related to the personal career development of accountants but also directly affects the quality and efficiency of accounting work. An accountant lacking professional competence may find it difficult to make accurate and timely judgments and decisions in the complex and ever-changing accounting environment, which could affect a company's economic benefits and pose unnecessary risks and losses to investors and stakeholders. To enhance professional competence, accountants must embrace the concept of lifelong learning, continuously keep abreast of changes in accounting standards and systems, and master the latest accounting theories and practical operational methods. Additionally, they should actively expand their knowledge base, learn about legal, tax, financial, and other related fields relevant to accounting work to enhance their comprehensive qualities and problem-solving abilities. Furthermore, accountants should focus on accumulating practical experience by participating in various complex accounting projects and honing their practical skills. Only by continually exploring and summarizing experiences in practice can they truly enhance their professional competence and provide strong support for the healthy development of companies and the stable operation of the market economy.

## 4. Basic Contents of Accounting Standards

### 4.1 Accounting Principles

Accounting standards provide unified guiding principles and methods for accounting, ensuring comparability and consistency of accounting information across different enterprises, industries, and regions. In modern market economies, the quality of accounting information is crucial for decision-making, management, and investor protection. The establishment and implementation of accounting standards are aimed at ensuring the authenticity, completeness, accuracy, and transparency of accounting information. By adhering to accounting

standards, enterprises can conduct accounting recognition, measurement, recording, and reporting according to prescribed procedures and methods, thereby generating reliable and relevant accounting information. Accounting standards are not just a set of rules but also the foundation of public trust. They enable external investors, creditors, government regulatory agencies, etc., to have full confidence in the accounting information provided by enterprises and make reasonable economic decisions. Moreover, accounting standards promote international economic cooperation and exchange, facilitating the operations of multinational enterprises and global capital markets. We should attach great importance to the status and role of accounting standards in accounting regulations, continuously improve and update the accounting standards system to adapt to the development of the market economy and changes in the business environment<sup>[3]</sup>. Additionally, efforts should be made to enhance the publicity and training of accounting standards, improve the professional competence and execution capability of accountants, and ensure the effective implementation of accounting standards and the enhancement of accounting information quality.

#### **4.2 Accounting Systems**

Accounting regulations are essential cornerstones for standardizing and unifying accounting work, among which accounting systems play a pivotal role. Accounting systems not only specify the organizational structure and implementation procedures of enterprise accounting work but also clarify specific working methods, thereby providing strong guarantees for the orderly and efficient conduct of enterprise accounting work. In modern enterprise management, accounting work is no longer limited to simple bookkeeping and accounting but involves various aspects of enterprise economic activities, such as cost control, budget management, and fund operation. These tasks require clear systems to regulate to ensure data accuracy and work efficiency. Accounting systems are born out of such needs. By comprehensively planning and systematically designing accounting work, accounting systems ensure that each accounting task is conducted according to established procedures and methods, greatly improving the standardization and reliability of accounting work. Additionally, accounting systems

are significant for safeguarding the authenticity and completeness of enterprise accounting information. Under the constraints of the system, accountants must strictly follow the regulations and refrain from arbitrarily altering data or concealing information. This not only enhances the credibility of enterprise accounting information but also facilitates internal management and external supervision. As the market environment continues to change and enterprises grow, accounting systems need to be continuously updated and improved to adapt to new situations and demands, continuing to play their rightful role.

#### **4.3 Internal Controls**

Among the basic contents of accounting standards, internal controls are extremely crucial, involving the stable operation of enterprise accounting work and risk prevention. By establishing and implementing a series of rigorous and scientific internal control measures, enterprises can effectively prevent and correct errors and fraudulent activities in accounting work, ensuring the authenticity, completeness, and accuracy of accounting information. Internal control measures typically include clarifying job responsibilities, implementing approval systems, and improving internal audit mechanisms. These measures are interrelated and mutually constrained, collectively forming a complete system of internal control within the enterprise. In this system, each accountant understands their responsibilities and authorities, conducts operations strictly according to prescribed procedures, and every economic transaction must undergo appropriate approval and verification to prevent errors or fraud. The internal audit department conducts regular checks and assessments of enterprise accounting work, promptly identifying problems and proposing improvement suggestions. The effective implementation of internal controls not only guarantees the quality of enterprise accounting information but also improves management efficiency and economic benefits. Through internal controls, enterprises can promptly identify and correct problems in management, optimize resource allocation, reduce operating costs, and enhance market competitiveness. Moreover, internal controls are also an important means for enterprises to prevent risks<sup>[4]</sup>. In a complex and changing market environment, enterprises face various internal and external risks,

such as market risk, credit risk, and operational risk. By establishing sound internal control systems, enterprises can effectively identify, assess, and control these risks, ensuring stable development.

## Conclusion

As beginners, we should deeply recognize the significant role and impact of professional ethics and standards in accounting work. In our future studies and careers, we should continuously enhance our professional competence and ethical standards, striving to become qualified accounting professionals, and contribute our efforts to the healthy development of enterprises and the stable operation of the economy.

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