

Attributes of Professionalism

The following describes the attributes of professionalism expected from faculty, students, and staff in the School of Pharmacy.

Scholarship & Commitment to Excellence: Actively engaged; demonstrates strong work ethic; strives to exceed minimum requirements; punctual; prepared; conscientious; seeks additional knowledge and skills

Accountability & Initiative: Accepts personal responsibility; demonstrates reliability and follows through with commitments in a timely manner; accountable for his/her performance; recognizes limitations and seeks help when necessary; addresses individuals who demonstrate unacceptable behavior

Self-Growth & Self-Care: Commits to life-long learning; seeks and applies feedback for improvement; sets and achieves realistic goals; maintains personal health and well-being; avoids harmful behaviors

Responsibility & Sense of Duty: Contributes to the profession; provides service to the community; follows established policies

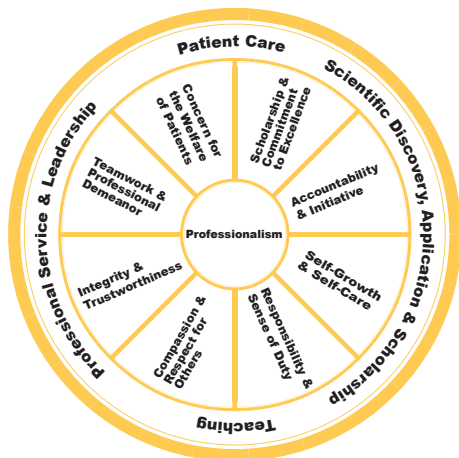
Compassion & Respect for Others: Displays empathy; considerate; cooperative; sensitive; respectful of different socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural traditions, values and belief systems; avoids promoting gossip and rumor; respects authority

Integrity & Trustworthiness: Demonstrates a high degree of integrity, truthfulness, and fairness; adheres to ethical standards; maintains confidentiality

Teamwork & Professional Demeanor: Interacts effectively with others; listens and communicates effectively; willing to assist others; flexible; nonjudgmental; controls emotions appropriately; inspires trust; carries oneself with professional presence

Concern for the Welfare of Patients: Treats patients and families with dignity; respects patient privacy; advocates for patients; places patients' needs above their own; promotes a culture of safety

Professionalism Wheel



The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy believes that professionalism is central to its mission. In a community devoted to learning and public service, a foundation of professional behavior must exist if that community is to thrive with respect and harmony. Therefore, members of the academic community are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of professional behavior. This document was developed to guide our faculty, students, and staff as they carry out their responsibilities in academic and professional settings.

The diagram of a bicycle wheel above helps to conceptualize professionalism in pharmacy. The spokes of the wheel are the attributes of professionalism from which professional behaviors and actions should emanate and the tire of the wheel is literally “where the rubber meets the road” - a road that leads to patient care; scientific discovery, application & scholarship; teaching; and professional service & leadership.