Definitions of Professionalism

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter will provide various definitions to terminology associated with professionalism, as well as introduce some of the general attributes and traits of professionalism and professional behavior.

KEY WORDS

Behavior: An individual’s externally observable actions, which are influenced by character, attitudes, and values

Competency: A measure of an individual’s skill level, competency is attaining and maintaining an adequate level of knowledge and skill, and the application thereof

Professional: An individual who possesses the knowledge, skill, training, and education to successfully and competently practice in a given profession

Professionalism: Conformation to the standards and norms of a given profession; a behavior exhibited by a professional that conveys an appropriate and consistent attitude for their role

Professionalization: The sociological phenomenon or deliberate process by which an occupation or vocation transforms itself into a regulated profession of high integrity and competence

Responsibility: A state of accountability to adhere to the set beliefs and values of the profession; responsibility exists between oneself, colleagues, consumers, and society