

## PROFESSIONALISM

Professionalism in medicine requires the physician to place the interest of the patient above the physician's self-interest. Professionalism aspires to altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, service, honor, integrity, and respect for others. Professionalism is a core set of values, attitudes, and behaviors that motivate physicians to make the interests of patients and society their first priority.

The elements of professionalism, which have been identified by the American Board of Internal Medicine encompass:

1. A commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the practice of medicine and in generating and disseminating knowledge;
2. A commitment to seek to know the interests of individual patients and to protect their interests;
3. A commitment to be responsive to the health needs of society.

These elements require residents to acquire the competencies that are listed in the table.

See also: Humanism, Legal Medicine, Ethics, Lifelong Learning.

### Competencies of Professionalism

Competency	Learn in a seminar or conference	Learn as part of a clinical rotation
Demonstrate a personal sense of altruism by consistently acting in one's patients' best interest		All rotations
Maintain accountability to the patient, to society, and to the profession by fulfilling all agreements, both written and implied		All rotations
Show a commitment to standards for lifelong excellence by continuously adding to one's knowledge of medicine and by drawing the distinction between knowledge that is based on high-quality evidence and knowledge from anecdote and personal experience		All rotations
Demonstrate a sustained commitment to service by accepting inconvenience to meet patients, needs, advocating for the best possible care for every patient, seeking active roles in professional organizations, and volunteering one's skills and expertise to advance the welfare of patients and the community		All rotations participating in community outreach programs
Demonstrate honesty and integrity through one's behaviors by recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest and relationships and by refusing to allow personal gain to supersede the best interest of patients		All rotations
Behave with high regard and respect for colleagues, other members of the health care team, and patients and their families		All rotations

**Illustrative Clinical Experiences:** All clinical rotations, but particularly those that exemplify clinicians' values and belief systems, such as continuity and community-based practice, free clinics and shelters, and venues in which the acuity of illness is high, such as intensive care units.