

Part 6: Examining Professionalism

Closing Tips:

1. Focus on your personal development.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest” - Benjamin Franklin

2. Be mindful of your professional image.

Your reputation (and public impression) will often precede you.

3. Be careful how quick you are to judge the professionalism of others.

We see the world through different lenses.

Additional Resources:

- **The Attributes of Professionalism** document provided this week
- **“The Bias of ‘Professionalism’ Standards” article:** Gray, A. (2019, June 4). “The Bias of ‘Professionalism’ Standards.” Stanford Social Innovation Review. https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_bias_of_professionalism_standards#
- **The ‘Hidden Curriculum’:** Like any environment, academia has its own culture and set of standard practices. If you’re new to academia, these may be invisible to you, but senior personnel could still hold you accountable to these established invisible standards. This is called the “‘Hidden Curriculum’—the social and professional norms in academia that are second nature to many but opaque to others, especially scholars from underrepresented groups and other countries”



- **Read about one student's experience with the Hidden Curriculum here:** Hariharan, J. (2019, May 16). "I felt lost in a new academic culture. Then I learned about the hidden curriculum." Science. <https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2019/05/i-felt-lost-new-academic-culture-then-i-learned-about-hidden-curriculum>
- **"Grad School's Hidden Curriculum":** There's no one list of items to learn but this resource was compiled by various scholars with information crowdsourced through Twitter and then compiled into a blog post: Calarco, J. (2018, July 24). "Guest post: Grad school's hidden curriculum" Scatterplot. <https://scatter.wordpress.com/2018/07/24/guest-post-grad-schools-hidden-curriculum/>
- **The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)** provides webinars, writing guidance, advice, and other professional development resources that are helpful for graduate students and future faculty members. Virginia Tech subscribes so you have free institutional access to their resources. <https://www.facultydiversity.org/graduate-students>
- **Professional Development Offerings at VT:**
 - **From the Graduate School:** <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/student-services/professional-development.html>
 - **From VT Career and Professional Development:** <https://career.vt.edu/job-search/grad-student-job-search.html>

