

What is professionalism?

A professional has personal integrity in his or her work; this is to dually say that the professional produces work with integrity.

A physician is a professional. A physician studied through sleep-deprivation, brutal exams, crumbling doughnuts and questionable coffee to reach the moment where society deemed them fit to license and entrust with thousands—perhaps tens of thousands—of human livelihoods throughout the duration of their career; a physician could only do this if it were evident that he produced work of integrity. A professional can be trusted. A professional physician finds personal integrity in his work; he helps his fellow humans heal, adapt, and thrive from moment to moment, and in this personal integrity and peace of mind in his contribution to society, he naturally finds reason to *approach* his work with integrity, consequently *producing* work of integrity.

I aspire to be the sort of professional I describe. I seek to produce work that I have integrity in—work that I can be proud of. In order to produce such work, I'm happy to solicit and collect feedback, quick to recognize and amend my mistakes, and in pursuit of the kind of professional precision that comes with dedication to personally meaningful work and germinates trust in my reliability. I wouldn't have applied for this job if I didn't believe that the sort of work I would do here would be meaningful. I use a physician as my prime example as I was raised in a family of physicians and teachers. These are the professionals I've always looked up to, and although I've never studied medicine or education, I have a lasting reverence for their contributions to society as veritable springs of knowledge and literal life-savers, and I recognize that I could find the utmost personal integrity and satisfaction in my work with a similar conception of professionalism.