



## **Attributes of Professionalism**

An essential task in the professional development of a medical student is to gain an understanding of the fundamental principles of the medical profession and attributes of the medical professional and to commit to the integration of these principles and attributes into her/his professional identity.

VTCSOM endorses the following attributes of professionalism as guiding principles of medical education and as consistent with the stated mission of VTCSOM to “produce physician thought leaders through an educational experience grounded in inquiry, research, and discovery” who will be prepared to serve patients in the most capable and compassionate manner. The following attributes apply to the classroom, the research laboratory, and the clinical settings.

**Commitment to Engaged Learning:** acknowledges primary responsibility for successful completion of the degree; demonstrates commitment to her/his own professional competence; punctual; attends required classes, clinics, or other required events; seeks additional knowledge and skills; seeks feedback; willing to assist other learners.

**Compassion:** considerate; displays empathy; listens attentively and responds humanely to the needs of patients; treats patients and families with dignity.

**Conscientiousness:** takes initiative; is flexible; delegates effectively; accepts personal responsibility for mistakes; asks for help when needed; maintains accurate information in patient records; discloses medical error when appropriate.

**Respect:** respectful of peers, faculty, staff, patients, and families; respects privacy and confidentiality.

**Self-Awareness:** fosters continued professional development; demonstrates emotional intelligence; maintains appropriate boundaries with patients and colleagues; avoids inappropriate sharing of health information of others; recognizes position as a role model for others.

**Self-Care:** maintains personal health and hygiene; seeks advice, counsel, or tutoring when recommended by others; avoids harmful behaviors; avoids inappropriate remarks; adheres to local dress codes.

**Sense of Duty:** completes assigned duties; sets and achieves realistic goals; follows policies; responds promptly when called; is detail-oriented; accepts inconvenience in meeting the needs of patients; volunteers one's skills and expertise for the welfare of the community; seeks active roles in organizations.

**Social Responsibility:** demonstrates an unselfish regard for others (altruism); advocates for quality in the care of patients recognizes and addresses the social determinants of health as applies to patients and communities; advocates for reducing disparities in health care; understands the threats to medical professionalism posed by conflicts of interest.

**Teamwork:** works well with others; adheres to policies on authorship of documents; inspires trust; is respectful of different socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural traditions; is sensitive to team member needs; respects authority; provides honest, respectful feedback.

**Trustworthiness:** displays honesty and ethical behaviors in all academic pursuits including study and research; is honest in interactions with patients, peers, and the community; does not report private academic information of other students.

***Companion policies include:***

- Honor Code
- Teacher-Learner Compact
- Violations of the Honor Code and/or Attributes of Professionalism
- Virginia Intercollegiate Anatomy Laboratory (VIAL): Rules, Policies, and Procedures.
- Use of Human Cadavers and the Virginia Intercollegiate Anatomy Laboratory (VIAL)
- Social Media
- Dress code