



Student Professionalism

By Cathy Turner

The College of Health Sciences and Nursing is committed to educational excellence for our students regardless of their specific professional program. While the content and skills taught in each program is different, the professionalism that is an essential component of a Belmont graduate is already known within our community. While we commonly use the term "professional", how often do we see it defined, define it for our students, or explicitly instruct our students in professional conduct? For some of us it may be frequently discussed, and for others, as in pharmacy, it may be part of the current local and national conversation.

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) recently published the Tenets of Professionalism for Pharmacy Students.¹ These tenets were developed by a national student advisory committee and presented to the ACCP Board of Regents. While presented and published by a pharmacy organization, these tenets are in no way limited to the practice of pharmacy only. The tenets and their definitions are as follows:¹

Tenets of Professionalism¹

Altruism

Make an unselfish commitment to serve the best interests of the patient above your own...

Honesty and Integrity

Display honesty and integrity in all that you do...

Respect for Others

Treat others as you would want to be treated...

Professional Presence

Instill trust through professional presence...

Professional Stewardship

Actively participate and engage in school, organizations, and other worthwhile endeavors in the profession of (pharmacy)...

Dedication and Commitment to Excellence

Strive for excellence and assume responsibility for your learning and professional development...

As we proceed into the new academic year, let us encourage our students to embrace their professionalism now, not waiting for the diploma at graduation or the certificate to practice from their respective state board. Let us too, continue to take up the mantle of professionalism as we mentor and guide. Whether nurse, occupational therapist, pharmacist, physical therapist, or social worker, let us add that we are also professionals whether student or teacher.

Reference

1. American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Tenets of Professionalism for Pharmacy Students. *Pharmacother.* 2009;29(6):757-9.

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