

**PROFESSIONALISM IN OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION:**

Think of a professional role model – how do that person’s attributes align with the definitions below? How do you model the definitions of professionalism for your students?

**I.**

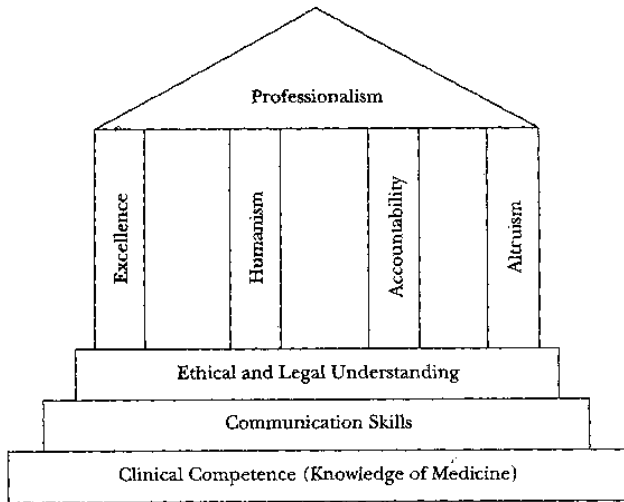


Figure 2-1 A definition of professionalism.

“Professionalism is demonstrated through a foundation of ...competence, communication skills, and ethical and legal understanding, upon which is built the aspiration to wise application of the principles of professionalism: excellence, humanism, accountability, and altruism.”

Stern, DT *Measuring Medical Professionalism*. Oxford University Press, New York. 2006.

**II.**

American Board of Internal Medicine	
Commitments	Elements
Highest standards of excellence	Altruism
Patient interest and welfare	Accountability
Response to health needs of society	Excellence
	Honor
	Integrity
	Respect

*Project Professionalism*. (1995). Philadelphia, PA: American Board of Internal Medicine

**III.**

- Physicians subordinate their own interests to the interests of others.
- Physicians adhere to high ethical and moral standards.
- Physicians respond to societal needs, and their behaviors reflect a social contract with the communities served.
- Physicians exhibit core humanistic values, including honesty and integrity, caring and compassion, altruism and empathy, respect for others and trustworthiness.
- Physicians exercise accountability for themselves and for their colleagues.
- Physicians demonstrate a continuing commitment to excellence.
- Physicians exhibit a commitment to scholarship to advancing their field.
- Physicians deal with high levels of complexity and uncertainty.
- Physicians reflect upon their actions and decisions.

Swick, H. M. (2000). Toward a normative definition of medical professionalism. *Acad Med*, 75(6), 612-616.