

# PROFESSIONALISM

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November 1, 2011

## ACCORDING TO A NEW SURVEY (YORK COLLEGE)

- More than 1/3 of HR professionals and business leaders feel that majority of recent graduates fail to demonstrate professionalism in the workplace
  - The perception is that there is a declining trend of professionalism
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## MOST COMMON COMPLAINTS

- Failing to accept constructive criticism properly
  - Having difficulty taking personal responsibility for their actions
  - Needing to improve internet etiquette
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## CONTINUED

- “Students and employees alike are text messaging, surfing the Internet and responding to cell phone calls at inappropriate times.”
  - *(David Polk – Polk Lepson Research Group)*
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## CONTINUED

- Employers believe recent graduates feel a stronger sense of entitlement today than they did five years ago
  - *The report found:*
  - “Entitlement, defined as expecting rewards without putting in the work or effort to merit the rewards, was the most cited reason (21.5%) for a decline in professionalism over the past five years”
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## IMPORTANT FACT

- 96.3% of employers say that the level of professionalism of a candidate influences whether they are hired

# VALUES & QUALITIES

- Integrity
  - Respect
  - Attitude
  - Personal Conduct
  - Appearance
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## UNPROFESSIONAL TRAITS

- Inappropriate Appearance (attire)
  - Tattoos
  - Piercings
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- But is much more than just looking the part. It has everything to do with someone's personal character and responsibility.
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- The best way to become professional is to live it.
  - If you want to be in business, you show up to work
  - If you want to be a professional, you dress like one
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# TIPS FOR MORE PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

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  3. Finish your tasks
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  5. Communicate with respect
  6. Turn off the cell phone
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## STUDENT TIPS

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  7. Take responsibility for poor work or missed deadlines
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  9. Don't complain that the work is too hard or too much
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  - Project a positive image/have independent thought and action
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- "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit."

--Aristotle

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