What Does It Mean To Be Professional Today?

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What Does It Mean To Be Professional Today?
You Are The Star

What Is Professional?

Professional Dress

Clothes don’t make a man, but clothes have got many a man a good job.
- Herbert Harald Westlund

Professional Presence

Professional Presence is the sum total of the resources you have to influence others.

“Professionalism: It’s not the job you do, it’s how you do the job.”
- Anonymous

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What Does It Mean To Be Professional Today?

Professional Dress

A person can form an opinion of someone or something during the first two seconds of meeting. In other words, first impressions mean a lot and can impact your future greatly.

Malcolm Gladwell, author of "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking"

Importance of Professional Dress

Someone who takes the time to look good and be well-groomed is seen as being more serious and motivated about their job than someone whose style of dress seems lazy.

Looking neat and professional at work can translate into having greater confidence. Confidence is an attribute that supervisors look for in employees selected for promotions.

Your look and how you conduct yourself should clearly communicate who you are and what you stand for. Getting this right is vital to the success of your personal marketing.

Professional Dress - School

The clothes a person wears affect how they are perceived by others

1. Dress for School
2. 
3. 

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Appearance Counts, Even in School

Dressing Well is a Frame of Mind
When you dress well, you feel well. If you think education is important, then dress to match that belief and you will have an easier time getting into the learning frame of mind.

Dressing Well Shows Respect
Dressing a notch up from your peers will show the instructors that you take the class seriously and it demonstrates respect. This will help you stand out and may help if you need a recommendation.

Dressing Well to Meet Someone New
You never know when you are going to run into someone that may have influence over your getting a job. Most schools bring employers on campus or have guest speakers in the classroom, so be prepared.

Professional Dress - Clinical
The clothes a person wears affects how they are perceived by others

1. Dress for School
2. Dress for Clinical
3. Dress for School

Appearance Counts, Even at Clinical

Dressing to the School Code
School dress codes at clinical sites help distinguish students from staff members. The attire is meant to be simple with minimal places for dirt to hide, easy to launder, and cheap to replace if damaged or stained irreparably.

Dressing Practical and for Comfort
Being on your feet most of the day and washing your hands constantly will take its toll if you are not prepared. Buy comfortable, OSHA compliant, closed toe shoes as well as a waterproof, inexpensive watch.

Dressing Well but Smelling Like Nothing
You should never wear perfume or cologne to work. Remember the triggers for asthma and buy unscented soaps, deodorants, and hand lotions for work.
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Professional Dress - Interview
The clothes a person wears affects how they are perceived by others

1. Dress for School
2. Dress for Clinical
✓ 3. Dress for Interview

Dress for School
- Professional dress

Dress for Clinical
- Scrubs

Dress for Interview
- Suit

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Appearance Counts, Especially for Interviews

Dressing in a Well-Fitted Suit
- Tailored, natural fabric, basic black, dark gray or dark navy
- Women: Fitted simple blouse, black pumps, pant/skirt suit
- Men: Matching silk tie, white dress shirt, black leather belt and laced shoes

Dressing Without Distraction
- Simple stud earrings, watch, one ring and necklace
- Hair must be of natural color, well groomed and away from face
- Clean well manicured nails and natural looking make-up

Dressing Mishaps
- Visibly displaying tattoos and facial piercing other than in the ear
- Check in the mirror for missing buttons and trim loose strings and tags
- NEVER wear spike heels, tight clothing or show cleavage

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Think Before You INK
Patients associate visible body art with lack of professionalism and education

A 2006 study done by the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology found that 24% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 50 are tattooed.

Studies conducted at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago report that almost 15% of people aged 18 to 50 have at least one piercing – other than their earlobes.
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Professional Presence

What is Professional Presence

Professional Presence: A dynamic blend of poise, self-confidence, control, and style that enables a person to command respect in any situation.

"Books are judged by their covers, houses are appraised by their curb appeal, and people are initially evaluated on how they choose to dress and behave.

In a perfect world this is not fair, moral, or just. What's inside should count a great deal more. And eventually it usually does, but not right away. In the meantime, a lot of opportunities can be lost."

-Susan Bixler and Nancy Nix-Rice Authors, The New Professional Image
Importance of Professional Presence

Positive Perception
Students' career success depends on the ability to be professional, adaptable, and strategic about your communication choices. Speech habits contribute greatly to the image you project.

Confidence
It is said that the person who has confidence in themselves indicates this by a strong stride, a friendly smile, good posture, and a genuine sense of energy.

Image of Leadership
Demonstrate the professional foundation of values, attitudes and competencies. Understanding yourself and understanding the business environment are keys to professional success.

Professional Presence

Be Proactive and find a Mentor

Set Goals and be Accountable

Network

You Are The Star

Be Proactive and Find a Mentor

Oprah Winfrey, Cal Ripken, Jr, Quincy Jones, Helen Keller and Henry David Thoreau all have something in common.

They had a mentor

A mentor is someone who believes in your talents and abilities and will help you develop poise, self-confidence, control, and style.
What Does It Mean To Be Professional Today?

Set Goals and be Accountable

Realistic goals are achievable goals, unrealistic goals are just dreams. The first step in making your goal achievable is to make it SMART.

- **Specific** and well defined
- **Measure** your progress towards the goal
- **Attainable** to reach the end goal
- **Relevant** to you and your goal
- **Time-bound** to accomplish goal

Networking

Build a positive professional presence online. This is your first “social” impression, so clean up your act.

The old saying is true, if you wouldn’t show it to your grandma, then take it off of social media.

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Practice Punctuality

Be on time. In fact, strive to be ahead of schedule.

The Must “DO” List
The Must “DO” List

1. Practice Punctuality
2. The Hand Shake
3. Manners
4. Listen and Respect

✓

Shake hands like you mean it and stand for introductions.

Say “please” and “thank you”, RSVPs by the deadline and return phone calls promptly.

Stay focused when listening to others and treat everyone with courtesy and fairness.
The “DON’T” List

1. **Talk Loudly**
   - Discretion, and a lower tone of voice, is usually best.

2. **Attitude**
   - Don’t cry in front of others. Positive attitudes keep morale high and help managers and employees work better together.

3. **Personal Space**
   - Don’t decorate your workspace with “cutesy” things or barge into someone’s personal workspace.
Focus on your job and don't spread gossip. It is better for others to not know enough about you than too much about you.

The "DON'T" List

1. Talk Loudly
2. Attitude
3. Personal Space
4. Share Confidences

Focus on your job and don't spread gossip. It is better for others to not know enough about you than too much about you.

ME File

What is a Me File
• This is a personal portfolio that contains documentation about you.

Why is a Me File necessary and smart
• It will remind you of your important accomplishments completed throughout the year.

What to include in your Me File
• Reviews, projects, positive comments, training, thank you's, and volunteering

What Does It Mean To Be Professional Today?

Professionalism is a 360-degree awareness of the impact that your behavior, words and actions have on the people you support, not to mention your overall effectiveness.

It's accepting responsibility for your image because it affects how others view your employers, your immediate supervisor and, ultimately, your performance.

It is no wonder your professionalism has such an impact on your career!

- Joan Burge
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Thank You

Special Thanks to:

[Logos and addresses]

Thank You