

7 Virtues of a Profession

Passionate For Profession

Develop a true passion for your profession. This ensures you can keep yourself *motivated* in the long-term and have a strong *stamina*.

Enthusiastic For Achievements

Develop an intrinsic enthusiasm for *potential* achievements, long before they are actually achieved. This gives you the right amount of *motivation*.

Restless On Topics

Be restless and always be on the go when it comes to the topics and technologies of your profession. This ensures you really master the *whole scope* of your jobs.

Striving For Challenges

Never go the way of least resistance. Instead always strive for the true challenges. There is less *competition* and higher *reputation* when resolved.

Insistent On Goals

Be persistent and insisting on your *major* goals. An idea whose time has come will finally let you reach the goals if you are just patient enough.

Hard-Line On Excellence

Develop an intrinsic hard-line to always strive for excellence. This allows you to regularly be somewhat *atop* the usual expectations and to continuously go ahead.

Versatile Across Disciplines

Become a T-shape expert by learning to be versatile across the disciplines of your primary profession and its related professions. Grand solutions are *interdisciplinary* ones.

15 Tenets of a Profession



Success Favors Preparation

You can be successful either by accident or through serious preparation. Never rely on accidental success. Instead always prepare yourself as best as possible. It will pay out in the long-term. A good long-term strategy for good preparation is to continuously *evaluate* and collect principles, patterns, rules and tools *before* they are required.

Unorthodox Thinking Fathers Awesome Solutions

Every great solution once had a predating unorthodox vision. Hence allow yourself those visions by intentionally thinking *against* the common sense and established body of knowledge. Only this way you will be able to invent and deliver awesome solutions afterwards.

Do Not Fear To Be Eccentric

Following every trend, group opinion or social pressure might be the way of least resistance. But do not fear to be eccentric and this way different than the average. Always remain loyal to yourself and keep up following your beliefs. Always remember: those who follow other opinions often have no *own* opinion at all.

Divide and Conquer Every Challenge

Independent what particular challenge you are confronted with, always use the proven *Divide and Conquer* approach to find a solution. First, strictly structure the overall challenge into manageable parts, then solve each part as separately as possible and finally combine all resulting partial solutions.

Work Is An Ideal Gas

Independent what you are working on, the task will always expand to fill *all* the available time. Although working under time-pressure is nasty, giving a task too much time in advance is not wise, too. Hence, always try to prioritize your tasks according to importance and urgency, but focus on deadlines and work time-boxed.

Cheap Quick Wins, Expensive Perfection

The *Pareto* Principle tells you that in 20% of the time you usually can deliver up to 80% of the requested results. The remaining 80% of the time you need to deliver the remaining 20% of the results. This implicitly explains that you always can achieve *Quick Wins* easily and you should understand that Perfection requires really *lots* of efforts.

It's Easier To Apologize Than Ask For Permission

Acting politically correct is always the desired and preferred way. But sometimes, if you really have to bring something forward, it can be more efficient and economical to just start doing it than to get the official blessing of all *possible* stakeholders beforehand. If you really need progress, do not shy to just go ahead if *really* necessary.

Results Trump Every Opinion

You can have as strong as possible opinions, but they are always trumped by actual delivered results. Hence, always focus on delivering results and establishing facts instead of just arguing in long discussions. Also remember: in delivery there is always less competition than in sales!

Thumbnail Results Are Better Than No Results

In case you have to deliver results, but you fail to deliver them, it is better to thumbnail alternative results than to deliver no results at all. This is especially true for numbers: better to provide precise-looking but "thumb-nailed" numbers than to deliver no or "round" and faked numbers at all.

Content Convinces, Beauty Sells

Form follows function: Always focus on delivering great content, because this is what convinces the receiver. But never forget that the best content will not sell without the proper beautiful wrapping. Hence, ensure that your results are *both* content-wise *and* aesthetically pleasant to the consumer.

Going The Extra Mile

To allow your work results to be positively recognized you have to be regularly at least *somewhat* atop the expectations. This is usually achieved by providing aspects which were not originally demanded, but delight the task submitter. But know your price: if you deliver 150% *all the time* you just devalue yourself in the long-term.

Careers Require Self-Marketing

Always try to perform good work, but never forget that it will only pay out if you regularly *also* use the good work results to explicitly perform some self-marketing for yourself. For this, especially seek for the high-profile tasks which have the attention of the *right* stakeholders.

Fulfil Everything, Demand Nothing

Always develop your skills to the maximum possible level, but still be fair to others. Best is to always try to fulfill yourself *everything* you demand from others and demand *nothing* from others what you fulfill yourself. Avoid being disappointed by accepting that the world is not fair and be happy if others may top your intentionally low expectations.

Need Your Job Less Than Your Job Needs You

Separate between your profession and your job. Being a workaholic because you really enjoy your *profession* is one thing, but always ensure that at any time you effectively need your *job* less than your job needs you. Else, you will be too much of a victim of your job, experience a bad work-life balance and you are easily exploitable.

Discipline Requires Balancing Pleasure

Always be disciplined in your way of working by respecting deadlines, prioritize tasks, etc. But if you really want to have a strong stamina *in the long-term* you have to *balance* discipline with true pleasure and fun. Hence, explicitly interweave all your disciplined work with enough pleasurable work or you will be demotivated too fast.