PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPECTATIONS

Professionalism

As a business major, we expect you to start practicing the type of professionalism that will be needed in the work world after you graduate. Good habits developed while at VSU will pay dividends later.

Professionalism is a mindset, a type of behavior, and a way of life. Some attributes of professionalism, applicable to any setting, are stated below.

**Attendance and Punctuality:** As students, you should attend all classes, except when extenuating circumstances occur. As a matter of courtesy to your fellow students and the professor, you should be on time. Would you miss days of work without good reason and/or without notifying your employer? Would you habitually be late? Of course not – if you want to keep your job!

**Work Ethic:** Adopt the work ethic of doing your best, rather than just enough to get by. Develop the diligence, persistence, and discipline to complete a task and do it well.

**Acceptance of Responsibility:** Take responsibility for your behavior and your work. If you do well on a project or in a course, take pride in the results. If you do poorly, don’t put the blame on someone else.

**Courtesy:** Treat your professors, fellow students, and everyone else with courtesy, as you would like to be treated. When you disagree with someone, during a classroom discussion or in other situations, disagree gently, maintaining respect for the other person’s point of view.

**Character:** True professionals have moral character, integrity, and honesty. Always consider the moral and ethical implications of your behavior, and do what is right.

**Attitude:** Maintain a positive attitude, a pleasant disposition, and a cooperative spirit.
Academic Expectations in Langdale College

Attributes of professionalism are reflected in classroom behavior.

**Study habits:** Students are expected to spend time outside of class reading the text or other assigned readings, doing homework assignments, and studying course content. Readings should be done before class in order to make the class sessions more meaningful and instructive. Homework assignments should be completed on time.

**Class participation:** Students are expected to be prepared and willing to participate in class discussions. Your preparation will enrich the course for everyone in the class. Doing readings and assignments before class will improve your knowledge and awareness, and improve the quality of your comments.

**Teamwork:** Several business classes include group projects and assignments done by teams. Each member of a group or team is expected to carry his/her share of the workload.

**Classroom conduct:** Students are expected to be attentive throughout a class period. Do not talk when the professor or other students are talking, and do not be disruptive in any way. Treat other students and the professor with professional courtesy and respect. Also, no food and drinks are allowed in the classrooms.

**Desire for excellence:** Students should strive for excellence in the quality and quantity of their work. Remember that professors not only evaluate your work in the classroom, but they may also be asked for recommendations from prospective employers. Be the best you can be and you will succeed in your professional life!

**Academic Integrity**

Certainly, one aspect of professionalism is honesty with regard to doing your own work. Cheating in all forms is prohibited. As an academic sanction, a professor may administer penalties ranging from a reduced grade on the specific work in question to a failing grade for that particular course. For severe cases, the university may take further disciplinary action. Specific examples of “academic irregularity”, as stated in the VSU Student Code of Ethics, are as follows:

- No student shall receive or give, or attempt to receive or give, assistance not authorized by the instructor in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in any academic course.
• No student shall take or attempt to take, steal, or otherwise procure in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to the conduct of a class, including but not limited to tests, examinations, laboratory equipment, and roll books.

• No student shall sell, give, lend, or otherwise furnish to any unauthorized person, material that can be shown to contain the questions or answers to any examinations scheduled to be given at any subsequent date in any courses of study offered by the university, without authorization from the university.

• Plagiarism is prohibited. Themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas of another are incorporated in the paper, they must be appropriately acknowledged.

  Academic integrity also includes ethical use of technology. Examples of unethical usage stated in the VSU Student Code of Ethics include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Any student logging on or attempting to logon as another user, giving your user name/password to someone else, and/or accessing another user’s files without expressed verifiable permission is prohibited.

• The invasion of a user’s privacy by the altering of a user’s computerized registration files, passwords, programs, or other related files, or the review and dissemination of confidential student record information (defined by F.E.P.R.A. guidelines) is prohibited.

• The misappropriation of intellectual property, i.e. software piracy, is prohibited.

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