



Honor and PHS Values

The United States Public Health Service is an organization that is collegial and professional. By accepting a commission, PHS officers enter a service life with similar constraints, rights, and privileges of officers in other uniformed services. Therefore, certain personal qualities are essential for a commissioned officer to meet challenges while adhering to a higher standard of personal conduct and decency. When we say in our oath of office to “bear true faith and allegiance,” we are promising to be honorable. Honor is a matter of conducting ourselves in the highest ethical manner in all relationships by carrying out, acting, and living the Core Values of the Public Health Service in everything we do.

The four essential Core Values that PHS officers must strive to embody:

- Leadership
- Service
- Integrity
- Excellence

Leadership

Provides vision and purpose in public health through inspiration, dedication, and loyalty.

Service

Demonstrates a commitment to public health through compassionate actions and stewardship of time, resources, and talents.

Integrity

Exemplifies uncompromising ethical conduct and maintains the highest standards of responsibility and accountability.

Excellence

Exhibits superior performance and continues improvement in knowledge and expertise.

These are the Core Values of the United States Public Health Service. It is our means of establishing the foundation upon which we base our trust in one another. We believe in its effectiveness and strive to maintain the standards set by our predecessors.