



## DEFINITION OF THE WORD PROFESSIONAL

The word professional is a bit like NLP, confusing because everybody has their own definition. Most professions require at least 7 years of training to obtain the necessary qualifications and experience and then the “professional” is just at the beginning of their journey. On my website when I use the word professional I use it in the sense of Grant and Cavanagh’s definition below.

Grant and Cavanagh (2004:3) have summarized professional status as defined by several key criteria:

- (1) Significant barriers to entry
- (2) A shared common body of knowledge rather than proprietary systems
- (3) Formal qualifications at university level
- (4) Regulatory bodies with the power to admit discipline and meaningfully sanction members
- (5) An enforceable code of ethics
- (6) Some form of state-sanctioned licensing or regulation for certain professions, or parts of professions

### *Reference:*

*Grant, A. M. & Cavanagh, M. J. (2004). Toward a profession of coaching: Sixty five years of progress and challenges for the future. International Journal of Evidence-based Coaching and Mentoring, 2(1).*

