

□ Glossy Curriculum Vitae

A **Glossy Curriculum Vitae** refers to an academic or professional curriculum vitae that appears impressive due to its length, formatting, or volume of entries — but lacks depth, originality, or meaningful impact.

□ Key Characteristics

- **Long lists** of publications, many of which are low-impact, repetitive, or minimally contributive.
- **Inflated authorship** — frequent co-authoring on consensus papers or multi-author reviews.
- **High volume of presentations**, often at minor conferences or self-organized events.
- **Prestigious affiliations** used to signal value, even when the actual role was minor.
- **Committee memberships** and task forces with unclear or nominal contributions.
- **Strategic buzzwords** (e.g., AI, leadership, innovation) peppered throughout.

□ In Practice

A spinal surgeon's CV listing 100 publications, 20 societies, and 30 committees — but upon review, 90% are position papers or reviews with no original data or clinical translation.

⚠ Why It Matters

Glossy CVs:

- Obscure real merit behind volume and branding.
- Encourage **careerism** over substance.
- Reinforce **gatekeeping** by rewarding appearance over insight.
- Contribute to **academic theater**, where performance replaces genuine contribution.

□ Related Terms

- [Careerism](#)
- [Academic Theater](#)
- [Mediocrity](#)
- [Formalism](#)
- [Institutional Prestige](#)

Bottom line: *A glossy CV may shine on the surface — but often reflects polish, not purpose.*

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