

'Help us be what you want us to be'

CQUniversity Graduate Attributes

Your input is vital. AUQA Audit 2010.

The term "Graduate Attributes" refers to the set of qualities and skills that a university defines as core outcomes for their students. These provide a foundation for students' employability as well as underlying the development of their human capabilities.

The qualities and skills in CQUniversity's Graduate Attributes complement students' discipline-specific skills. This ensures that CQUniversity graduates are flexible, aware, and ethical individuals who are well prepared for the global job market.

The integration of these Graduate Attributes will begin with undergraduate courses in 2010, guided by the University's Learning and Teaching philosophy to "help students on their learning journey to achieve their goals by providing an appropriate learning environment and access to personalised support to meet their needs."

CQUniversity's Graduate Attributes are organised into three categories, and each category is organised into three levels of achievement: **Introductory** (end of Year 1); **Intermediate** (at the end of Year 2 or 3); and **Graduate** (end of final year).

Category 1: Generic skills

The generic skills are those that are required of graduates in general. They help students achieve success while studying as well as in their careers.

Communication

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Use appropriate language to describe/explain discipline-specific fundamentals/knowledge/ideas;

Intermediate Level: Select and apply an appropriate level/style/means of communication;

Graduate Level: Formulate and communicate views to develop an academic argument in a specific discipline.

Information literacy

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Locate/identify resources appropriate to the discipline;

Intermediate Level: Apply information from various sources to address discipline-specific requirements;

Graduate Level: Interpret and analyse information from various sources to address a discipline-specific task.

Team work

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Act as a co-operative, productive team member, based on an allocated role;

Intermediate Level: Take responsibility for developing/setting/achieving group goals;

Graduate Level: Evaluate own strengths and weaknesses as a leader/team member, and/or autonomously working in a team context.

'Help us be what you want us to be'

Information technology competence

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Use general software and the University's learning management system to advance personal learning;

Intermediate Level: Use discipline-specific software (independently) to explore/interpret information;

Graduate Level: Apply appropriate discipline-specific software to provide solutions to questions.

Category 2: Intellectual nurturing

Although more abstract, these are relevant in all areas of work as well as in life, helping to develop students' abilities to analyse, think creatively, and be responsible, culturally aware global citizens.

Problem solving

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Manage time and prioritise activities within the University's framework for learning;

Intermediate Level: Make decisions to develop solutions to given situations/questions;

Graduate Level: Formulate strategies to identify, define and solve problems including, as necessary, global perspectives.

Critical thinking

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Explain the basic principles of University-level learning/learning styles/lifelong learning;

Intermediate Level: Analyse own performance and identify gaps in Graduate Attributes and discipline-specific knowledge/understanding;

Graduate Level: Reflectively evaluate and think creatively within the context of a specific discipline.

Cross-cultural competence

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Respect cultural diversity and respond appropriately to the opinions of others;

Intermediate Level: Discuss and debate the relative merits of ideas and actions from different cultural perspectives;

Graduate Level: Operate effectively within a discipline context in a socially diverse global environment.

Ethical practice

The ability to:

Introductory Level: Demonstrate an understanding of the legal/moral fundamentals of ethical practice within a discipline;

Intermediate Level: Make reasoned judgements on the value of particular actions in a discipline-specific context;

Graduate Level: Articulate an appropriate personal value system, in terms of social behaviour and civic responsibility.

Category 3: Discipline-specific skills

These are related directly to the content of each degree program, and Faculties will provide input for each program and for each core course. Discipline-specific skills are aligned to professional accreditation, or are areas of knowledge that make a student work-ready in a particular area. Discipline-specific skills complement the other Graduate Attributes.

For more information, contact the Corporate Projects Office.

Phone: 07 4923 2593. **Email:** projects@cqu.edu.au

Website: <http://quality.cqu.edu.au>