

**The FuturEd Vision of
Comprehensive University Graduate Attributes
with Explanatory Information (2011)**

A University Graduate Should Be Qualified for	With evidence-based competence in such specific SKA as :	And additional evidence-based competence in such cross-cutting generic skills as:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced education and lifelong learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject area expertise • Research and analysis skills • Cross-disciplinary awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective written and oral communications • ICT Skills (Information and Communications Technology) • Critical thinking • Creative thinking • Independent learning skills • Entry-level employability skills • English language proficiency • Ethical behaviour • Problem solving and decision-making • Planning • Leadership • Teamwork
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation in the economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional knowledge and skills • Advanced-level employability skills • Entrepreneurial skills 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation in society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community knowledge • Social responsibility awareness • Environmental sustainability awareness • Personal responsibility and practical life skills 	

Graduate Attributes are the means by which a university will:

- Define and measure excellence in teaching and learning
- Promote lifelong learning
- Prepare students for graduate school, professions, employment and/or entrepreneurialism
- Demonstrate relevance and community engagement
- Reinvent itself to be customer-oriented and accountable to society at large

To apply the Graduate Attributes, each course and program must be

1. described in terms of intended learning objectives and
2. mapped against these attributes
3. designed to gather evidence of competence in some/all of these attributes

References:

- Measuring the Quality of University Graduates (Saudi Aramco, 2009)
- [Graduate Attributes in Australian Universities](#) (DEST Australia, undated)
- Review of Graduate Skills: Critical Thinking, Team Work, Ethical Practice and Sustainability (Australian Learning and Teaching Council, undated)

Terms as they are used in the Graduate Attributes list

Active participation in society:	ability to be a responsible citizen, family and community member
Active participation in the economy:	to be engaged either through employment or business creation (e.g., with entrepreneurialism, consulting, project management skills)
Advanced education:	a higher and/or graduate degree from universities worldwide
Advanced-level employability skills:	(Saudi Aramco, 2009) strong technical knowledge and competencies, applied knowledge, systems thinking, multi-disciplinary exposure and orientation, proficient use of information technology, strong project management skills, sound knowledge of quality approaches, safety attitude, leadership skills, business acumen in decision-making, work ethics, curiosity and innovation, communication and collaboration, foreign language proficiency, lifelong learning, personal and intercultural interaction competencies
Attributes:	qualities, abilities, competencies
Community knowledge:	within the context a graduate finds him/herself (local, national and international), the relevant history and culture, and contemporary issues
Creative thinking:	ability to generate innovative ideas and bring them to reality
Critical thinking:	ability to conceptualize, evaluate, synthesize and apply information
Cross-disciplinary awareness:	understanding of one's focus of study within the larger academic and socio-economic context from deliberate exposure to other disciplines
Effective written and oral communication skills:	ability to present information at the same level as graduates from other universities worldwide, including English where possible
Entrepreneurial skills:	ability to identify opportunities and take initiatives to create income-generating enterprises; in addition to employability skills, the skills associated with financial management, marketing, organization, goal setting, record keeping, business management
Entry-level employability skills:	(Conference Board of Canada) : to be immediately employable, as determined by employers: fundamental skills to communicate, manage information, use numbers, think and solve problems; personal management skills to demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviours, be responsible, be adaptable, learn continuously, and work safely; teamwork skills to work with others and participate in projects and tasks.
Ethical behaviour:	in a personal, academic and professional context, ability to apply Islamic values, integrity and accepted international standards for appropriate choices

Environmental sustainability awareness: ability to understand local and global environmental challenges and participate actively in protecting the environment

Generic skills: skills that cross all intended graduate outcomes and which all graduates should demonstrate upon completion

Graduates: individuals who complete programs for academic degrees from a university

Independent learning skills: ability to locate, evaluate and use information and learning opportunities as and when needed

Information and Communication Technology skills: ability to use current learning and communications technologies and adapt to future technologies and tools

Leadership: ability to motivate and include others by modeling ethical, effective, efficient and inspirational qualities in accomplishing a common task

Lifelong learning: informal and non-formal learning across the lifespan

Research and inquiry skills: techniques for scientific study and exploration for the creation of knowledge

Personal responsibility and practical life skills: ability to act appropriately and positively within the culture and traditions of society

Planning skills: ability to identifying goals, objectives, methods, and resources needed to carry out methods, responsibilities and dates for completion of tasks

Problem solving and decision-making: ability to (1) identify challenges, alternatives and appropriate solutions in logical and/or creative ways, (2) make positive and necessary choices, and (3) participate in implementing solutions

Professional knowledge and skills: those theories and competencies associated with a specific profession, e.g., teaching, engineering, and accounting

SKA: Skills, Knowledge and Abilities – these may vary between and among degree programs

Social responsibility awareness: ability to understand contemporary socio-economic challenges and participate positively in wider society

Subject area expertise: achievement of stated learning objectives specific to courses and programs within which the student participated

Teamwork: skills associated with positively participating in a collaborative and collective activity, leading and/or following as necessary and desirable