

Graduate Profile - 10 Essential Skills

Skill #1: Communicate effectively.

Graduates will communicate effectively by listening, weighing influencing factors, and responding accurately and professionally. They will express their thoughts coherently in writing, orally, and in formal presentations.

- *Example:* During a team meeting, a student listens to feedback about a group project, asks clarifying questions, and presents a revised proposal with improved visuals and clear, professional language.

Skill #2: Think critically to solve problems and create new ideas and solutions.

Graduates will think critically by evaluating assumptions and assessing information to make informed conclusions. They will also think creatively by combining ideas in original ways or developing new ways of addressing issues.

- *Example:* Faced with declining attendance at student events, a student analyzes survey data, identifies key barriers (like time and location), and proposes a new event schedule that increases participation.

Skill #3: Apply quantitative reasoning skills to analyze and solve numerical problems.

Graduates will hone their ability to provide solutions guided by data and choose the best methodologies for arriving at informed conclusions.

- *Example:* In a biology lab, a student uses statistical analysis to interpret experimental results, recognizes an outlier in the data set, and recalculates the results to ensure accuracy before submitting the report.

Skill #4: Interact effectively with others.

Graduates will demonstrate both self-awareness and appreciation of people from other backgrounds, as well as the ability to collaborate, communicate, and work respectfully with others.

- *Example:* While working on a multicultural group assignment, a student makes space for different communication styles, ensures everyone is heard, and facilitates consensus respectfully.

Skill #5: Adapt to changing circumstances while leading and supporting others.

Graduates will accept change and find effective ways to work and thrive in different settings. They will motivate others in the pursuit of a common goal and coach others in the pursuit of this goal.

- *Example:* When the lead speaker drops out of a class presentation at the last minute, a student steps up, reorganizes roles, and helps teammates rehearse a new format in time to deliver successfully.

Skill #6: Perform professionally.

Graduates will adhere to the code of ethics in their chosen profession and act with honesty and fairness. They will prioritize their tasks, manage their time, take initiative, and demonstrate accountability and reliability.

- *Example:* An intern consistently meets deadlines, asks for feedback on their work, and maintains client confidentiality per the organization's ethical guidelines.

Skill #7: Engage in civic life to improve society.

Graduates will engage in political, social, and other activities to address issues that benefit society.

- *Example:* A student volunteers with a local food bank, organizes a campus food drive, and partners with faculty to raise awareness about food insecurity.

Skill #8: Collaborate and work in teams.

Graduates will collaborate with colleagues, become effective team members, and manage conflict.

- *Example:* In a group project, a student mediates a disagreement about the division of work, proposes a fair compromise, and ensures everyone contributes to the final product.

Skill #9: Apply academic knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Graduates will articulate and apply the theoretical content of their academic preparation with relevant knowledge and abilities essential to their chosen career.

- *Example:* A student majoring in environmental science uses their classroom knowledge to conduct a water quality analysis for a local watershed as part of a community partnership.

Skill #10: Use information for decision making.

Graduates will identify, evaluate, and responsibly use information needed for decision making.

- *Example:* When choosing between job offers, a student researches company values, benefits, and growth opportunities, then consults a mentor to make an informed decision aligned with their goals.