

The University of Technology, Jamaica  
 Office of Curriculum Development and Evaluation

**UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, JAMAICA**

**POLICY ON ATTRIBUTES OF THE UTECH GRADUATE**

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<b>POLICY</b>	Attributes of the UTech Graduate
<b>DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/CENTRE</b>	<b>Academic Affairs</b>
<b>OFFICE/UNIT RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>Curriculum Development &amp; Evaluation</b>
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**1.0 PURPOSE**

This policy outlines the attributes that Undergraduate and Graduate Students are expected to develop while studying at UTech. This document is complementary to the Teaching and Learning Policy and should be read in conjunction with it.

**2.0 APPLICATION**

All Staff and Students

**3.0 DEFINITION**

Attributes

These refer to the 'qualities, skills and understandings that all students should develop during their time with the institution. These include, but go beyond, the disciplinary expertise or technical knowledge that has traditionally formed the core of most university courses. They are qualities that also prepare graduates as agents for social good in an unknown future' (Bowden et al 2000).

#### **4.0 POLICY STATEMENT**

This policy describes the attributes that all UTech graduates will have developed during their course of study in order to equip them for the future as citizens who are socially aware, professionally competent, able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing and demonstrate other attributes that will prepare them to contribute meaningfully as professionals and as a citizens. Students' achievement of these attributes is accomplished through implementation of outcomes-focused education

Emphasis on entrepreneurial skills is supported at the undergraduate level as all courses of study have a module with this focus, as part of the General Education requirement, The inclusion of Cooperative Education in courses of study will provide graduates with real world work experience. Where appropriate, curricula will promote the use of interdisciplinary teams in solving complex problems.

A student's achievement of the attributes is an indicator of the University's philosophy of education and achievement of its core values, teaching and learning function.

UTech's Strategic Plan states that one of the institution's overarching goals is "to inspire students to learn and provide them with accessible, quality learning and research programmes for their effective participation in local and international arenas". Therefore with the content of the learning experiences, at UTech, graduates will be expected to have developed the graduate attributes outlined in this policy. Emphasis may be placed on different skills depending on the course of study and Academic Units may introduce additional skills.

#### **5.0 PRINCIPLES**

In order to support the achievement of these attributes the following are required:

- The attributes of the UTech graduate are explicitly communicated to faculty, staff and students in all course and module documentation.
- Students are presented with appropriate learning, teaching, and assessment experiences to enable them to develop and demonstrate the attributes of the UTech graduate.
- UTech demonstrates commitment to producing graduates who demonstrate these attributes.

**ATTRIBUTES OF THE UTECH GRADUATE**

All graduates of UTech will be able to:

- 6.1.1 communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, in their professional practice and as members of their communities. They should also communicate in a manner which reduces the possibility of conflict.
- 6.1.2. apply logical, critical and creative thinking when solving problems
- 6.1.3 access, evaluate and synthesize information from a range of sources utilizing appropriate methods and technologies
- 6.1.4 utilize lifelong learning skills in their pursuit of personal development and to achieve excellence in professional practice
- 6.1.5 demonstrate ethical conduct and social responsibility as a professional and a citizen
- 6.1.6 utilize research skills to solve problems and inform decision making
- 6.1.7 demonstrate intercultural awareness and understanding by thinking globally and considering issues from a variety of perspectives
- 6.1.8. apply international standards and practices within their discipline/professional area.
- 6.1.9 work autonomously as well as a member of a team as a professional
- 6.1.10 demonstrate an appreciation for cultural and/or sport activities
- 6.1.11 understand the application of entrepreneurial skills and innovation in wealth creation
- 6.1.12 demonstrate health, safety, and environmental awareness
- 6.1.13 demonstrate an awareness of the principles of intellectual property and respect for related rights
- 6.1.14 demonstrate an awareness of the importance of community service and volunteerism

In addition, the following should be achieved by students who complete graduate level courses of study:

- A broad expertise of their major field including knowledge of latest research developments and concepts
- A thorough understanding of the relevant techniques in the field demonstrated both by their application and comprehensive review of the literature
- Awareness and appreciation of the research environment, of the context – national, regional, international – in which research activity takes place
- The ability to communicate the results of their research clearly and coherently in recognition of the level of the audience
- Training in research methodology and techniques in their critical evaluation, appropriate to their field of study
- Skills and proficiencies which provide a sound foundation for future career development and professional activity
- The capacity to independently conceive, design and carry to completion a research programme or project
- Contribution to the advancement of knowledge and making substantive original contribution to their professional practice, enhancing the role of research in professional practice

## **7.0 APPROVAL AUTHORITY**

This policy may only be amended with the approval of the Teaching and Learning Committee and ratified by the Academic Board. Recommendations for changes to this policy may be made by the Board of Undergraduate Studies, Board of Graduate Studies Research and Entrepreneurship and the Teaching and Learning Committee of the Academic Board.

## **8.0 REFERENCES**

Bowden J, Hart G, King B, Trigwell K, and Watts O, (2000). *In Generic Capabilities of ATN University Graduates*. Retrieved on 5 November, 2009 from <http://www.clt.uts.edu.au/ATN.grad.cap.project.index.html>

Curtin Graduate Attributes . Retrieved on 9 January, 2010 from [http://otl.curtin.edu.au/teaching\\_learning/attributes.cfm](http://otl.curtin.edu.au/teaching_learning/attributes.cfm)

Graduate Qualities (UniSA). Retrieved on 9 January, 2010 <http://www.unisa.edu.au/gradquals/>

Graduate Attributes in Australian Universities. Retrieved on 15 October, 2011 <http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/.pdf>

University Council of Jamaica – Student Learning Outcomes for Graduate Students

### Schedule 1: Indicators of Graduate Attributes

Schools are required to develop a list of indicators for each Course of Study offered. This should be done in consultation with key stakeholders and/or the Course of Study Advisory Committee.

The following are examples of indicators for Graduate Attributes listed above:

#### *Attribute*

6.1.1. Apply knowledge of their discipline, principles and concepts in sufficient depth to begin professional practice

#### *Indicators*

A graduate will:

- Apply knowledge – demonstrate application of theory to practice in real situations, appreciate limitations of theory, use materials, devices, safety codes and practices, specific equipment and techniques appropriately.
- Apply concepts, theories which demonstrate an understanding of the discipline or professional area
- Recognize the social and historical context of knowledge
- Identify the methodological and substantive limitations of the field and apply the discipline or professional area's mode of inquiry

#### *Attribute*

6.1.2 Communicate effectively, orally and in writing, both in their professional practice and as members of their communities

#### *Indicators*

A graduate will:

- Demonstrate oral, written, mathematical and visual literacies as appropriate to the discipline or professional area
- Communicate appropriately with professional Colleagues and the public
- Use communication styles appropriate for different audiences
- Display sensitivity to their audience in organizing and presenting ideas

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