Sample graduate attributes

Many programs through the university are accredited by professional associations. Some programs like Nursing and Medicine have mandatory registration requirements whilst others like Health Services Management and Marketing have optional registration with a professional association. Whether you have to register or you have the option to register, your course has already been ratified by the relevant association so that you can register.

During the process of a course being accredited, the University needs to demonstrate that its students will have attained a number of graduate attributes by the time they graduate. These attributes are what a graduate needs to be able to demonstrate in their work practices and behaviours. The table below is a compilation of some graduate attributes from professional bodies that accredit a range of courses from all the schools in the University.

Graduate Attributes

As you read through the list below, you may notice that many of the attributes are quite similar to each other, and you would be absolutely correct! A lot of graduate attributes are actually very similar in nature and transferable across many disciplines.

Professional Body	Graduate Attributes
Australian Human Resources Institute	Culture and Change Agent - Facilitates change in response to internal and external operating environments (AHRI, 2016)
Australian Medical Council	Demonstrates respect for colleagues (AMC, 2012)
	Demonstrates effective time management (AMC, 2012)
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council	Participates in quality improvement activities (ANMC, 2014)
	Contributes to the professional development of others (ANMC, 2014)
	Uses appropriate strategies to manage own responses to the professional work environment (ANMC, 2014)

Professional Body	Graduate Attributes
Australian Psychology Accreditation Council	Uses information in an ethical manner (e.g., acknowledge and respect the work and intellectual property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication) (APAC, 2008)
	Displays high standards of personal and professional integrity in relationships with others (APAC, 2008)
	Recognises and respects social, cultural, linguistic, spiritual, and gender diversity (APAC, 2008)
	Collaborates effectively, demonstrating an ability to: work with groups to complete projects within reasonable timeframes; manage conflicts appropriately and ethically (APAC, 2008)
Legal Profession Admission Board	Demonstrates professional skills in negotiation and dispute resolution (LPAB, 2010)
Public Relations Institute of Australia	Demonstrates skills in teamwork and independence, leadership, critical analysis, and strategic thinking (PRIA, 2016)
The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW	Displays professional ethics and responsibilities (BOSTES, 2016)
The Council of Ambulance Authorities	Builds and sustains collaborative professional relationships as a member of a team (CAA, 2013)
	Identifies the characteristics and consequences of non-verbal communication and how this can be affected by culture, age, ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, and socio-economic status (CAA, 2013)
	Utilises appropriate communication skills to effectively manage avoidance, confusion, and confrontation (CAA, 2013)

Reflection Questions

Consider the profession you hope to join when you graduate.

1. What do you think are the top three graduate attributes for that profession from this table?
2. Why would they be so important?
3. Which three from this list do you think you are developing well already?
4. Which three are your weakest points? How might you develop them in your subjects this session?

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