Generic Attributes

This policy is current as of 1 January 2014 and will be reviewed at least annually by the Academic Board.

Scope

This policy is applicable to Kaplan Higher Education Pty Ltd, trading as Kaplan Online Higher Education.

Purpose

In aiming for the above goals, Kaplan strives to nurture its graduates with both formal curricular and informal extra-curricular activities. The primary objective is to encourage individual students to become critical and independent thinkers who have the capacity for learning throughout life, with very good research skills, creative minds, strong values and the social skills needed to interact with different cultural groups.

Graduates will be able to demonstrate key generic attributes that go beyond disciplinary expertise or technical knowledge and represent qualities that contribute to graduate effectiveness as professionals in their chosen field. The attributes are:

Research and inquiry

Graduates will be able to critically analyse, evaluate and apply information and data in order to make decisions in a wide variety of industry situations.

- Undertake, evaluate and apply appropriate research, theories, concepts and tools to investigate problems and find solutions.
- Exercise critical thinking and independent judgement to assess situations and determine solutions.
- Have an informed respect for the principles, methods, values and boundaries of their profession and the capacity to question these.

Ethical, social and professional understanding

Graduates will be able to assess situations and professional responsibilities having regard to ethical, social, and professional considerations as appropriate within a business context.

- Act responsibly, ethically and with integrity and trustworthiness in their profession.
- Hold personal values and beliefs consistent with their role and participate in the broad discussion of these values and beliefs while respecting the views of others.
- Understand the broad local and global economic, political, social and environmental systems and their impact on relevant systems.
- Acknowledge personal responsibility for their own judgments and behaviour.
- Work collaboratively with people from diverse backgrounds and be aware of the different roles of team members and to function within that team.
Communication
Graduates will recognise the importance and value of communication in the learning and business environment.

- Create and present knowledge, arguments and ideas confidently and effectively using a variety of methods and technologies.
- Recognise the wide range of possible audiences for information and advice and respond with communication strategies appropriate to those audiences.

Integration of theory and practice
Graduates will have advanced knowledge in their chosen area and the ability to transfer that knowledge to authentic workplace contexts.

- Apply knowledge of theory and practice in their chosen area to current, new and unexpected situations.
- Be effective problem-solvers, capable of applying logical, critical and creative thinking to a range of problems in order to present viable solutions.

Independent and reflective practice

- Graduates will be able to work independently and be self-directed learners with the capacity and motivation for continued professional learning and development.
- Graduates will be able to critically reflect on their own practice and evaluate and understand current capacity and further development needs.

In summary, a graduate is expected to be an ethical and competent professional with a critical and creative mind to solve problems, be open to the diversity of cultures, be able to communicate effectively, and possess social and employability skills.

Responsible Officer
The responsible officer for the implementation and relevant training of this policy is the Vice President, Higher Education Australia.