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# Master’s Program Learning Outcomes and Methods of Assessment

# Template

*This document is a working document for programs to use to articulate learning outcomes. The University of Alberta Master’s Learning Outcomes within this template were developed by the University of Alberta, in addition to or in support of Alberta Credential Framework.*

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| Program Name: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Author(s): |  |

Post-secondary programs in Alberta must meet specific criteria that are defined by the Government of Alberta. This oversight helps ensure learning opportunities for post-secondary students are guided by [Alberta’s adult learning system principles](https://www.alberta.ca/adult-learning-system-principles.aspx).

The Alberta Credential Framework defines the following outcomes for Master’s program graduates:

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| **MASTER’S GRADUATE COMPETENCY** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| **DEPTH AND BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE** | A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice. |
| **CONCEPTUAL AWARENESS AND/OR KNOWLEDGE OF RESEARCH** | A conceptual understanding and methodological competence that enables the graduate to:   1. Have a working comprehension of how established techniques of research and inquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. 2. Have a capacity to evaluation critically current research and advanced research and scholarship in the discipline or area of professional competence, and on the basis of that competence, have shown at least one of the following:    * the development and support of a sustained argument in written form, or    * originality in the application of knowledge. |
| **APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE** | The capacity to:   * Address complex issues and judgments based on established principles and techniques and * Apply an existing body of knowledge in the research and critical analysis of a new question or of a specific problem or issue in a new setting. |
| **AWARENESS OF LIMITS OF KNOWLEDGE** | A cognizance of the complexity of knowledge and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods and disciplines. |
| **COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS** | The ability to communicate ideas, issues, and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences. |
| **PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY/AUTONOMY** | The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:   * The exercise of initiative and of personal responsibility and accountability, and * decision making in complex situations, such as employment. * the intellectual independence required for continuing professional development. * the ability to appreciate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts. |

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| **KNOWLEDGE**  The ability to apply and exercise awareness of the limits of advanced level knowledge in a specialized field | |
| **University of Alberta Master’s Learning Outcomes** | **Knowledge** learning outcomes are specifically defined within programs, in alignment with these requirements from the Alberta Credential Framework:   1. **Depth and Breadth of Knowledge** – Students will be able to demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, informed by the forefront of the student’s academic discipline or field of study. 2. **Application of Knowledge** – Students will have the capacity to:  * Address complex issues and judgments based on established principles and techniques, and * Apply an existing body of knowledge in the research and critical analysis of a new question or of a specific problem or issue in a new setting.  1. **Awareness of Limits of Knowledge** – Students will have demonstrated awareness of the complexity of knowledge and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines. |
| **Program- Specific Learning Outcomes** |  |
| **Methods of Assessment** |  |

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| **RESEARCH COMPETENCY**  The ability to demonstrate advanced research skills under supervision. | |
| **University of Alberta Master’s Learning Outcomes** | **Research Competency** learning outcomes are specified below and are to be augmented in programs using field specific requirements, as appropriate.  Students will be able to demonstrate a conceptual understanding and methodological competence that enables the graduate to:   1. Have a working comprehension of how established techniques of research and inquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline. 2. Have a capacity to evaluate critically current research and advanced research and scholarship in the discipline, and on the basis of that competence, have shown at least one of the following:    * the development and support of a sustained argument in written form, or    * originality in the application of knowledge. |
| **Program- Specific Learning Outcomes** |  |
| **Methods of Assessment** |  |

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| **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**  The ability to demonstrate written communication, oral communication, and listening skills, and to communicate effectively and professionally with a broad audience | |
| **University of Alberta Master’s Learning Outcomes** | **Communication Skills** learning outcomes are specified below and are to be augmented in programs using field specific requirements as appropriate.  Students will be able to ability to communicate ideas, issues, and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, using:   1. written communication 2. oral communication   Beneficial Options  Students will be able to:  communicate using technical, digital, or other methods  use active listening skills |
| **Program- Specific Learning Outcomes** |  |
| **Methods of Assessment** |  |

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| **PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY/AUTONOMY**  The ability to research, reflect upon, and take ownership of the development of skills and career goals | |
| **University of Alberta Master’s Learning Outcomes** | **Professional Capacity/Autonomy** learning outcomes are specified below and are to be augmented in programs using field specific requirements as appropriate.  Students will be able to demonstrate:   1. The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment: personal accountability, initiative and decision-making in complex situations. 2. The intellectual independence required for continuing professional development, developed in part through the Individual Development Plan process of:  * researching potential career options * reflecting upon skills and competencies in the University of Alberta graduate attribute areas of creativity, communication, confidence, scholarship, ethical responsibility, critical thinking, and collaboration * creating timelines and milestones for professional development, academic, and personal commitments * reviewing progress regularly  1. The ability to evaluate the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts.   Beneficial Options  Students will be able to demonstrate:  The ability to take initiative to identify need and provide service to a community.  The ability to acquire new, or enhance existing leadership skills, including those required to teach or supervise students.  The ability to take initiative to bring about positive change in academic, professional and personal contexts, guided by the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).  The ability to receive, handle and act upon, and provide constructive feedback. |
| **Program- Specific Learning Outcomes** |  |
| **Methods of Assessment** |  |

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| **ETHICS**  The ability to identify, explain, analyze, and propose solutions to ethical issues | |
| **University of Alberta Master’s Learning Outcomes** | **Ethics** learning outcomes are specified below and are to be augmented in programs using field specific requirements as appropriate.  Students will be able to:   1. Identify ethical concerns specific to their field of research, such as treatment of human and animal subjects, interdisciplinary research, and Indigenous research. 2. Recall, recognize, analyze, discuss and act in ethical matters in:  * the subject field under investigation including those specific to course work, capstone project, thesis, scholarship and funding applications, * academic conduct, and * interactions with others in the community as stipulated in the code of student behaviour.  1. Propose solutions to ethical dilemmas and articulate what makes a particular course of action ethically defensible. 2. Identify ethical concerns in academic integrity, use and citation of sources, the misrepresentation of data and/or facts. 3. Recognize the importance of information and data handling (confidentiality, transparency, not falsifying data, etc).     Beneficial Options  Explain, recognize, and analyze ethical areas of responsibility held when teaching or mentoring within their field. |
| **Program- Specific Learning Outcomes** |  |
| **Methods of Assessment** |  |