

Policy Manual Section 20.2 Degree-Level Competencies

Graduates of Master's and Doctoral programs will be able to embody and demonstrate the degree competencies below. Some programs may have additional discipline specific competencies.

| Degree Level Expectations | Master's Level (thesis-based) | Doctoral Level | USask Graduate Competencies |
|---|--|--|--|
| Depth and Breadth of Knowledge | Students will be able to: understand the knowledge in their area of study possess critical awareness about current problems and/or new insights at the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice. | Students will be able to: synthesize and evaluate a substantial body of knowledge and concepts at the forefront of their academic discipline or area of professional practice. master a significant range of principal skills, techniques, tools, practices and or materials that are associated with a highly specialized body of work or field of learning | Knowledge |
| Awareness of Limits of Knowledge | appreciate complex knowledge and concepts, and the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines. | appreciate the limits of knowledge including the limitations of their own work and discipline, and the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, disciplines, and other ways of knowing. | Engaging in our Intercultural Society |
| Knowledge of Methodologies and Research | A conceptual understanding and methodological competence that enables students to: | A conceptual understanding and methodological competence that provides students with the ability to: | |
| | comprehend how established techniques of research and inquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline | conceptualize, design, and implement research for the generation of new knowledge, applications, or understanding at the forefront of the discipline and to adjust the research design or methodology in the light of unforeseen problems | Research practice |
| | critically evaluate current and advanced research and on the basis of that competence, demonstrate an original application of knowledge or the development of a sustained argument | make informed judgments on complex issues in specialist fields, sometimes requiring new methods | |
| | | produce original research, or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and to merit publication in disciplinary appropriate forms | |
| | identify ethically designed research involving Indigenous communities in relation to the field of study as appropriate | engage with other disciplines and operate in inter- or multi-disciplinary teams | Engaging in our Intercultural Society |
| | design research to address a gap in the scholarship in the discipline or area of professional competence | ethically design research that takes diverse perspectives and lived experience into account and are aligned with information governance principles (e.g., OCAP, CARE) | |
| | critically assess the ethical implications of emerging technologies and use them appropriately given context and purpose. | make informed judgements about the use of existing and emerging technologies across their research and professional lives. | Leveraging |
| | support others in using technologies appropriately in learning and/or discovery processes. | lead others in using technologies ethically and effectively, and help others make calls about the ethical and appropriate use of technology. | Technology |

^{*}The black text is directly from the Saskatchewan Graduate Degree Level Standards the added learning outcomes are colored green (general), blue (ethics) and purple (teaching).

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| Application of Knowledge | Students will be able to: | Students will be able to: | |
| | address complex issues and make judgments based on established principles and techniques | undertake pure and/or applied research at an advanced level | Research practice |
| | 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 | contribute to the development of academic or professional skill, techniques, tools, practices, ideas, theories, approaches, and/or materials | Adaptive Design & Problem Solving |
| | be aware of the broader implications of applying knowledge to particular contexts and ways of knowing | create and undertake diverse projects and effectively manage and monitor projects, programs, and people | Engaging in our Intercultural Society |
| | describe the disciplinary lens through which they conceptualize a problem | evaluate the broader implications of applying knowledge to contexts and ways of knowing | Knowledge |
| | identify the appropriate methodological approaches to questions at the forefront of discipline(s) or professional practice(s). | engage with other disciplines and operate collectively with multiple or interdisciplinary teams to solve complex problems. | Adaptive Design & Problem Solving |
| Communication Skills | Students will be able to: | Students will be able to: | |
| | share ideas, issues, and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, orally, visually, and in written form. | explain complex and/or ambiguous, ideas, issues, and conclusions clearly and effectively and translate knowledge for a variety of stakeholders, orally, visually, and in written form. | Communicate Meaningfully |
| | develop and support a sustained argument or expression, clearly communicating layers of complex ideas coherently. | create scholarly work that communicates their ideas successfully to the standards expected in peer and expert review. | |
| Teaching | | adjust communication style to meet the needs of learners | |
| | | communicate expectations to others and provide effective feedback | |
| | | adjust teaching content, approaches, and assessments to respect diversity of learners and acknowledge local place and peoples. | Nurturing Successful Relationships |

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| | Students will be able to: | Students will be able to: | |
| Professional Capacity / Autonomy | engage in their work with initiative, personal responsibility and accountability | demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex situations | Cultivating Well-being |
| | • possess skills necessary for employment requiring complex decision making | possess the intellectual independence to be academically and professionally engaged and current | |
| | demonstrate the intellectual independence for continuing professional development | lead change and adapt successfully to changing environments | |
| Ethics | conduct research according to principles for responsible conduct of research | reflect on and apply ethical principles in decision making and research practice, including the impacts of social and cultural diversity in the discipline | |
| | | oversee research adhering to principles for responsible conduct of research, including research data management and security | Engaging in our Intercultural Society |
| | collaborate with others to mobilize personal and collective capacities | lead ethically and create shared visions aligned with goals | Nurturing Successful Relationships |
| | • assess their position and power in specific contexts, and utilize agency and advocacy to nurture relationships within their academic context | utilize frameworks that aid the understanding of cultural differences and develop, manage, and maintain effective partnerships and relationships among colleagues and stakeholders. | Engaging in our Intercultural Society |

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