

# **Learning Outcomes for PolyU Graduates at Undergraduate Level**

## *Policy and Guidelines*

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 It is the continuing mission and pledged role of the University to foster academic excellence in a professional context, to provide a professionally-oriented and holistic education, and to produce preferred graduates who are all-round students with professional competence. This overarching educational objective is further specified in the form of graduate attributes in the University's strategic plans.
- 1.2 In the Strategic Plan for 2008-12, the University has updated the list of desired graduate attributes it had specified in the previous strategic plan. The attributes expected of PolyU graduates at undergraduate level thus now include professional competence, global outlook, interest in local and international affairs, problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication and interpersonal skills, sense of social and national responsibility, cultural appreciation, lifelong learning, biliteracy and trilingualism, entrepreneurship, teamwork and leadership.
- 1.3 This document clarifies the policy and guidelines for developing graduate attributes in undergraduate programmes, and defines student learning outcomes with reference to the desired graduate attributes.

### **2 Policy and Guidelines**

- 2.1 The graduate attributes and the associated institutional learning outcomes articulated in this document apply to students enrolled on all undergraduate programmes, irrespective of the mode of delivery (whether they are full-time or part-time or via CyberU) and funding model (whether they are funded by UGC or self-financed) of the programme, and including programmes offered outside Hong Kong.
- 2.2 Academic programmes are expected to make significant contribution to the development of PolyU's intended learning outcomes in their students. On the other hand, it is acknowledged that some learning outcomes may be difficult to be developed in the formal curriculum of a programme. It is therefore not necessary and not advisable for a programme to include all institutional learning outcomes as programme outcomes. Departments and programme teams are expected to interpret the institutional learning outcomes in the context of their discipline and consider them alongside the industry's expectations and accreditation requirements of their programmes when reviewing programme outcomes. Programmes should identify for themselves which outcomes they could contribute to, and to what degrees and in what ways; learning outcomes that can be reasonably expected as outcomes of the programme should be incorporated as programme outcomes.
- 2.3 For intended learning outcomes that are deemed difficult to be achieved in the formal curriculum of a programme, departments may rely on the co-curricular activities organised by the Faculty/Department and the Student Affairs Office (SAO) as well as activities offered by other units such as Chinese Mainland Affairs Office (CMAO), Culture Promotion and Events Office (CPEO), Industrial Centre (IC), Information

Technology Service Office (ITS), International Affairs Office (IAO), Library (LIB) to achieve the outcomes. Departments should be specific with respect to which learning outcomes are expected to be achieved mainly through co- and extra-curricular activities. Departments have the responsibility to communicate this expectation to students, and to guide, encourage, and/or support them to attend relevant co- and extra-curricular activities. In relation to this, departments are reminded not to overburden students with excessive curricular activities thus preventing their participation in co- and extra-curricular activities.

### **3 Institutional Learning Outcomes**

3.1 Graduate attributes specified in the Strategic Plan are further articulated as institutional learning outcomes to clarify the expected level of attainment for undergraduate-level graduates. Where appropriate, programmes are expected to contextualise the learning outcomes so that they become a meaningful and integral part of student's learning experience obtained from the programme.

3.2 These institutional learning outcomes can be broadly understood as covering four domains of development, representing four broad qualities expectable in PolyU graduates, which are development as competent professionals, creative problem solvers, effective communicators, and responsible global citizens.

3.3 **Competent professionals:** PolyU graduates at undergraduate level are expected to possess the disposition and capabilities that enable them to function effectively in their chosen professions. More specifically, they will:

- Demonstrate fundamental knowledge and skills required for functioning effectively as an entry-level professional, and be able to integrate and apply them effectively in practice. (**Professional competence**)
- Be able to work collaboratively within a team, and have an understanding of leadership and be prepared to lead a team. (**Teamwork and leadership**)
- Be aware of the global trends and opportunities in their professions. (**Global outlook**)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements of entrepreneurship, such as active discovery and exploitation of opportunities, prudent risk taking and experimentation of novel ideas or methods. (**Entrepreneurship**)
- Recognise the need to better themselves through continual learning and be able to plan and reflect on their own learning, as well as being able to use lifelong learning skills such as information literacy for learning autonomously for professional or personal development. (**Lifelong learning**)

3.4 **Creative problem solvers:** PolyU graduates at undergraduate level are expected to be problem solvers capable of critical and creative thinking. More specifically, they will:

- Be able to identify, define, and resolve problems pertinent to their future professional practice or daily life. (**Problem solving**)

- Be able to examine and critique the validity of information, arguments, and different viewpoints, and reach a sound judgment on the basis of credible evidence and logical reasoning. **(Critical thinking)**
- Be able to generate and experiment with novel ideas, methods, and approaches. **(Creative thinking)**

3.5 **Effective communicators:** PolyU graduates at undergraduate level are expected to be effective communicators with good interpersonal skills, who can manage workplace communication in English and in Chinese. More specifically, they will:

- Be able to communicate ideas and to connect and establish positive relationships with different people across a range of professional and personal contexts. **(Communication and interpersonal skills)**
- Be able to comprehend and communicate effectively in English and Chinese (including Putonghua) in professional/work-related contexts, both orally and in writing. **(Biliteracy and trilingualism)** *(Note: This outcome is not applicable to overseas students)*

3.6 **Educated global citizens:** PolyU graduates at undergraduate level are expected to be responsible and cultivated citizens with an interest in local and international affairs and the ability to appreciate and respect different cultures. More specifically, they will:

- Acknowledge their responsibilities to the society and their own nation and the need to behave ethically and morally, be willing to engage in services/activities beneficial to the society. **(Social and national responsibility)**
- Be interested and purposely engaged in activities to foster an understanding of local and international affairs and issues. **(Interest in local and international affairs)**
- Have an interest for appreciating artistic/cultural forms and/or participating in cultural activities. **(Cultural appreciation)**
- Have a sensitivity and respect for cultural diversity. **(Global outlook)**