

# Graduate Program Learning Outcomes Examples

Educational Assessment  
Santa Clara University

## Graduate Learning Outcomes

Graduate program learning outcomes are the specific and measurable skills, abilities, knowledge, beliefs or attitudes that students are expected to achieve by graduation. WASC requires graduate program outcomes to reflect higher & deeper levels than undergraduate outcomes. In addition, programs with both masters and PhD degrees should distinguish the outcomes for the two levels. Although programs can have more outcomes, all graduate program outcomes at Santa Clara University should have at least one outcome that maps to the Graduate Learning Goals of the University.

1. **Demonstrate academic competence:** Graduate students will demonstrate broad content knowledge and the ability to integrate and apply concepts from their course of study to professional situations.
2. **Engage in creative and collaborative learning:** Graduate students will innovate, collaborate, and communicate effectively with professionals and others in their discipline.
3. **Enhance professional development:** Graduate students will exhibit professionalism, consistent with the University's Jesuit mission, that includes attention to ethics, integrity, and responsible engagement with their communities—professionally, locally, or globally.”

## Checklist for Student Learning Outcomes

A graduate program's Student Learning Outcomes should answer the following questions:

- Do the SLOs specify what students should know, do and/or value upon successful completion of the program?
- Do the SLOs reflect a deeper level than undergraduate programs?
- Are SLOs feasible to assess?
- Do SLOs use verbs that express an action that students can demonstrate?
- Are SLOs publicly available and known to students and faculty?
- Do some (or all) of the SLOs align with SCU Graduate Learning Goals?

## Examples

Students will be able to communicate original research findings in writing. (example from NJIT handout)

Students will be able to synthesize and integrate necessary engineering concepts into engineering solution process (example from SJSU MS in Civil Engineering)

*Example Distinguishing MS and PhD from UC Merced's EECS degrees:*

Ph.D. Are able to identify novel and significant open research questions in electrical engineering and computer science...

and

M.S. Are able to conduct supervised research in electrical engineering and computer science....

**Additional Examples and Resources:**

[Several graduate programs at New Brunswick Theological Seminary](#)

List of Graduate Program Outcomes from WSU:

<https://gradschool.wsu.edu/student-learning-outcomes/>