

UTSC Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations

March, 2008

Introduction

This document sets out the goals and expectations that UTSC has for its undergraduate degrees and programs of study. These degree expectations will be used to assess existing and new programs. They also provide a standard by which students can evaluate the undergraduate education they receive at UTSC.

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Depth of Knowledge:

Programs of study will attain depth through a progression of introductory, core and specialized courses. Specialized courses will normally be at the C and D levels. This basic requirement is further refined in the three sections Knowledge of Methodologies, Application of Knowledge and Awareness of Limits of Knowledge.

Breadth of Knowledge:

In the course of their studies, students will gain an appreciation of the variety of modes of thinking, methods of inquiry and analysis, and ways of understanding the world that underpin different intellectual fields.

Through courses within or outside of their programs of study, students will be exposed to an appropriate balance of: the arts, literature and history of human cultures, the social and behavioral sciences, the natural sciences, and quantitative reasoning.

Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will have a working knowledge of different methodologies and approaches relevant to their area of study. They will be able to evaluate the efficacy of different methodologies in addressing questions that arise in their area of study.

Application of Knowledge

Within their area of study students will be able to frame relevant questions for further inquiry. They will be familiar with or will be able to seek the tools with which they can address such questions effectively.

Awareness of Limits of Knowledge

Students will gain an understanding of the limits to their own knowledge. They will also gain an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity, and limits to our collective knowledge and how these might influence analyses and interpretations.

Communication Skills

Students will be able to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, both orally and in writing. Students will learn to read and to listen critically.

Autonomy and Professional Capacity

In a broader context, the education students receive while pursuing their degrees has three further goals: to give students the skills and knowledge they need to become informed, independent and creative thinkers; to instill the awareness that knowledge and its applications are influenced by and contribute to society; and to lay the foundation for learning as a life-long endeavour.