

# Stellenbosch University Graduate Attributes

## 1. ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

### WHAT STUDENTS DO

Our graduates understand the values underpinning critical citizenry in the South African constitution and are committed to and provide socially just leadership with the development of democracy and equity in society in whatever roles they perform professionally and personally.

### HOW STUDENTS DO IT

While at SU, our students experience leadership-as-service and are encouraged to participate in different university communities, societies, and leadership structures. They can practice introspection, enact SU values, participate in group settings, collaborate, and are familiar with transformative practices through recognising and responding to societal challenges and expectations. They are confronted with the environmental, economic, political, sustainability and societal issues of the day. They are afforded the opportunity to debate these issues on campus, adopting a critical perspective on their own point of view and are open to a multitude of ideas while actively contributing to social impact activities.

## 2. DYNAMIC PROFESSIONAL

### WHAT STUDENTS DO

Our graduates are pro-active change agents, able to collaboratively define and understand complexity in a variety of changing contexts within multiple plausible futures. They make responsible choices and find the best and most ethical answers to challenges in collaborative and entrepreneurial ways.

### HOW STUDENTS DO IT

While at SU, our students have opportunities to develop a pro-active change agent disposition, identifying challenges and selecting appropriate information to solve or address problems collaboratively, responsibly, and innovatively. They are confronted with the implications of decision-making, also in terms of their career choices. Their time at SU include global experiences, as well as interactions and collaborations.

## 3. ENQUIRING LEARNER

### WHAT STUDENTS DO

Our graduates are curious independent thinkers, open to learning and able to form and defend their own ideas, approaches, and values. They creatively use a variety of knowledge systems and interdisciplinary approaches that is enunciated with academic integrity in an articulate manner. They understand that education is a life-long process which requires individual discipline, responsibility, and courage.

### HOW STUDENTS DO IT

While at SU, our students are encouraged to ask questions and are allowed to explore, evaluate, and responsibly use different sources of knowledge fostering a growth mindset. They learn how to articulate their thoughts in nuanced and scientific ways while developing a multilingual mindset. They participate in courageous discussions and engage with increasingly complex problems whilst seeking, giving, receiving, and responding to feedback. They are self-directed in their learning and relish the opportunities to self-reflect and improve on their meta-cognition and decision-making skills. They contribute and participate in research activities.

## 4. CARING INDIVIDUAL

### WHAT STUDENTS DO

Our graduates are aware that everyone has a responsibility for the wellbeing and flourishing of sentient and non-sentient beings and act in their professional and personal lives by taking care of themselves, other human beings, and the natural world around them.

### HOW STUDENTS DO IT

While at SU, our students should have opportunities to cultivate skills and ideas aligned with the SU values of Compassion, Accountability, Respect, Equity and Excellence to enhance the humanity of themselves and others through a disposition of reflexivity. They should have opportunities to create safe spaces and possibilities for care-building. In addition, our students are made aware of the seriously harmful consequences of unethical, disrespectful, and non-accountable actions and decisions.

## 5. DIGITAL KNOWER

### WHAT STUDENTS DO

Our graduates are digitally knowledgeable and agile individuals who function competently, critically, and ethically in the context of digital change and challenges in the world.

### HOW STUDENTS DO IT

While at SU, our students evolve as digital knowers by continuously being confronted with the positioning and relationship of machines in social and work scenarios. Graduates contemplate the social, entrepreneurial, and ethical implications of the human non-human relationship and become aware of the necessity to practice responsible and inclusive digital citizenship by recognizing and addressing issues of exclusion, division, bias, and polarization in digital spheres.