**GRADUATE SUCCESS ATTRIBUTES**

**UHMT1012**

**SECTION 23**

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**How UTM seven graduate success attributes could affect your study and future career?**

 Our new life have begun as an undergraduate who is studying in University Technology Malaysia (UTM). Enrolling in university is to equip ourselves with additional knowledge and skills. It is an essential step to be taken so that we are ready to encounter the real challenging world in the future. Various courses are offered to us, especially Graduate Success Attributes (GSA) as one of the fundamental course. This course aims to guide students in developing basic skills which consist of communication, thinking, teamwork, leadership and the list goes on.

 Communication skills is the first and foremost graduate success attribute that is taught to us. Communication with others is the indispensable routine in daily life. But, how the communication can be effective to prevent failure of conveying incomplete information? Learning communication skills in GSA course provides answer to the question. To promote effective communication, we need to speak confidently and clearly to by using the correct tone, tuning and body language. Speech is made by understanding our audience and knowing their general attitude toward the topics that are being spoken. Hence, we can catch and maintain their attention throughout the speech so that the important message can be delivered to them. Furthermore, writing, listening, reading as well as non-verbal communication skills need to be mastered to realize effective communication. When communicating with others effectively is no longer a problem, then we can always express our idea unambiguously in study and future career.

 Moving to the second attribute which is critical thinking and problem solving skills, they encourage us to examine and evaluate our thinking on every subject such as belief, assumption and opinion. Questions are asked by ourselves because we will not receive any information blindly. We stay curious and look for evidence for every happening. This attribute stimulates us to think out of the box so that our creativity can be displayed in study and working environment. Owing to that, we can achieve an excellent academic or job performance. Thirdly, GSA underlines the importance the team working skills. Why team working skills need to be practiced? It is because many hands make light work. Work load can be eased and duplication of efforts can be reduced. Great cooperation with others facilitate the accomplishment of team goal in both study and career path.

 Apart from that, the fourth attribute which is lifelong learning skills are being emphasized in GSA. Lifelong learning is the learning that is pursued throughout life that beyond conventional schooling. It is flexible and diverse. As we know, learning is not a luxury but an absolute basic necessity for mankind. Implementing lifelong learning skills increase our perception for viewing things. To add on, we will also have the ability to adapt to changes occurring around us, especially the world now is constantly transformed by latest technology. Next, entrepreneurship skills as the fifth skill that have been taught to us. Entrepreneurship is the process of starting up own business by enduring considerable amount of risk. The remarkable characteristics of a successful entrepreneur are persistent and risk taking. These two characteristics have inspired us to double our effort and patience in the process of transforming our ambition into reality. Risk as an irresistible element in life, what we should do? We should maximize our effort to overcome it and it is particularly vital in future career.

 Coming to the sixth attribute which is leadership, we have gained a better understanding about it. Leadership is the function of knowing yourself, having a vision that is well-communicated, building trust among colleagues and take effective action to realize your own leadership potential. A great leader is capable of empowering others and carrying them in the mean of hard time heading towards the flower road of success. It motivates me to become a charismatic and dependable leader for my colleagues in study and future career. Last but certainly not least, we have learned ethics and integrity as one of the success attribute. Ethnic is the principle of right and wrong while integrity is the willingness to be honest at all times. When entering working environment, we need to have a strong defined work ethics so that we are able to make the right decision under strenuous conditions. It is to improve productivity for a splendid performance. Integrity needs to be showcased in order to create a positive learning and working environment.

 To sum up, these seven graduate success attributes serve as weapons to be equipped by us when entering the real world battlefield. We should value these attributes as they are one part of the knowledge that contribute to a better self. Moreover, we appreciate our lecturer’s teaching and a great platform is provided for us to interact with our fellow classmates. Opportunity are given to us to practice the attributes that we have learned in class. What a luck to have such opportunity! Hoping that one day our success can shine brightly across the world as if we have swept to victory in a miserable battle.