The University of Minnesota student learning and development outcomes provide a framework for the undergraduate educational experience on the Twin Cities campus.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the time of receiving a bachelor’s degree, students:

- Can identify, define, and solve problems
- Can locate and critically evaluate information
- Have mastered a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry
- Understand diverse philosophies and cultures within and across societies
- Can communicate effectively
- Understand the role of creativity, innovation, discovery, and expression across disciplines
- Have acquired skills for effective citizenship and life-long learning

**Development Outcomes**

As they progress toward their bachelor’s degree, students will develop and demonstrate:

- **Responsibility and Accountability** by making appropriate decisions on behavior and accepting the consequences of their actions
- **Independence and Interdependence** by knowing when to collaborate or seek help and when to act on their own
- **Goal Orientation** by managing their energy and attention to achieve specific outcomes
- **Self Awareness** by knowing their personal strengths and talents and acknowledging their shortcomings
- **Resilience** by recovering and learning from setbacks or disappointments
- **Appreciation of Differences** by recognizing the value of interacting with individuals with backgrounds and perspectives different from their own
- **Tolerance of Ambiguity** by demonstrating the ability to perform in complicated environments where clear cut answers or standard operating procedures are absent

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Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

University of Minnesota
Advice for the Class of 2015

Developing and demonstrating these outcomes are part of your entire undergraduate experience – just ask last year’s freshmen. Here is some of their advice for you as you begin your University of Minnesota journey.

“Get to know your professors, go to their office hours and get help when you need it, and even when you don’t.”
- Communicate effectively
- Independence and Interdependence

“Be brave and don’t be afraid to say ‘hi’ to someone! They are in the same boat as you!”
- Appreciation of Differences

“Have patience, one cannot adjust to college overnight. However, it is worth the wait.”
- Resilience

“Do what you need to do. Find your own way of preparing for tests whether it’s studying all semester long or just before the test but make sure that you are able to succeed. Don’t get distracted and fall behind.”
- Master a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry
- Self Awareness

“Get involved immediately. It’s ok to be lost, but you learn so much more and get ahead so much faster by putting yourself out there.”
- Identify, define and solve problems

“Have an open mind and try new things! It is normal to feel scared and nervous in the beginning, it gets better!”
- Tolerance of Ambiguity
- Appreciation of Differences

“Talk to TA’s early and often. Talk to the people around you. Don’t just be the quiet kid in class. Get to know people.”
- Identify, define and solve problems

“Don’t be afraid to chat with people you see in class, you can start study groups to work on homework and prepare for tests.”
- Goal Orientation

Using Your Strengths

Students have found that tapping into their personal strengths can help develop these outcomes. As a member of the Class of 2015, you will have the opportunity to take the StrengthsFinder assessment so that you too can advance these outcomes by utilizing your own strengths.

“Taking the StrengthsFinder has helped me develop a better sense of self-awareness and has showed me the importance of capitalizing on what my authentic talents and skills are.”
- Self Awareness

“It was very empowering and encouraging to have my personality and styles affirmed as strengths and to have concrete ideas of things that I could pursue to build on my strengths.”
- Goal Orientation

“Using these strengths has allowed me to be aware of how I contribute and can learn from others in collaborative group work in the classroom, in the workplace, and in my own personal life.”
- Independence and Interdependence

“Being cognizant of my strengths has made me a stronger leader and learner. I am much more confident in my ability to lead because I have a better understanding of my relationships…and I am more prepared to adapt to challenging situations.”
- Tolerance of Ambiguity