

Assessment of MBA Learning Outcomes

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Introduction

Before I take a deep dive, in a sentence: the Master of Business Administration program has significantly strengthened my readiness for the next step in my career by helping me integrate strategy, analysis, ethics, communication, and professional development into a more mature and applied leadership perspective. My body of work devanshpatel.org is something I'm very proud of.

Now onto the crux; according to Ottawa University's Graduate Program-Wide Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, we are asked to evaluate five learning outcomes on a 1–5 scale and provide a rationale supported by major artifacts from core courses. In addition, the capstone course description explains that the MBA capstone is intended to help students demonstrate academic development through reflective and practical application of concepts, theories, and skills developed across the program. Based on my experience in the program and the work I have completed in my portfolio, I believe the course of instruction has prepared me well for greater leadership responsibility and for continued growth as a business professional. Overall, I assess my achievement of the program learning outcomes as follows:

1. Analyze, integrate, and apply theories, research, and techniques: 5
2. Acquire knowledge of laws, ethics, and values and apply them in practice: 4
3. Communicate effectively as a professional: 5
4. Demonstrate the value of continued personal and professional development: 5

5. Model Ottawa University values and culture through mutual respect, encouragement, and support: 5

Analyze, Integrate, and Apply Theories, Research, and Techniques to Plan and Serve Effectively in One's Professional Field of Study

I rated myself a 5 on this outcome because the MBA program consistently required me to connect theory to practice and apply business concepts to real organizational challenges. Ottawa University identifies this outcome as the ability to create comprehensive business strategies, understand major business disciplines, use quantitative analysis, and evaluate research critically. Throughout the program, I strengthened each of these capabilities through coursework that combined academic models with practical decision-making.

One of the strongest examples is my work in the Data Visualization course in which I crunched a bunch of data to detect fraud in Medicare fee for service claims and made it presentable for the C-suite through dashboards. This work demonstrates my ability to synthesize course theories with data and recommend a practical course of action.

This outcome is particularly relevant to my next career step because advancing in management or strategic leadership requires the ability to move beyond technical execution and think at the enterprise level. The MBA program helped me develop a broader perspective by teaching me how decisions in finance, operations, strategy, ethics, and organizational behavior are interconnected. I now feel better prepared to evaluate complex business problems, identify tradeoffs, and make recommendations that align with both short-term needs and long-term organizational goals.

Acquire Knowledge of Laws, Ethics, and Values and Apply This Knowledge to Make Decisions Appropriate to One's Professional Practice

I rated myself a 4 on this outcome because the program has meaningfully improved my ability to identify ethical issues and apply sound values-based reasoning, but I also recognize that ethical judgment is an area that requires lifelong development. Ottawa University describes this outcome as the ability to appraise social responsibility and ethical issues and select best practices for ethical business decision-making.

My strongest evidence for this outcome comes, of course, from the ethics course where we had to evaluate Meta. In that assignment, I had to consider not only what would be profitable or efficient, but also what would be responsible, lawful, and aligned with professional values.

The reason I selected a 4 instead of a 5 is that ethical leadership becomes more complex as responsibility increases. The MBA program has given me a solid framework for evaluating ethical dilemmas, but real-world leadership often involves ambiguous situations with competing interests and incomplete information. I feel well prepared to make more thoughtful and principled decisions than before entering the program, yet I also understand that growth in this area continues through experience, mentorship, and reflection. Even so, this learning outcome has prepared me for the next step in my career by helping me approach leadership decisions with a stronger sense of accountability, integrity, and awareness of stakeholder impact.

Communicate Effectively as Professionals

I rated myself a 5 on communication because the MBA program consistently required professional writing, analysis, presentation, and discussion. Ottawa University identifies effective professional communication as the ability to design, plan, execute, and evaluate communication methodologies at the organizational, team, and individual levels. Across the program, I learned that effective communication is not simply about presenting information clearly; it is about tailoring a message to an audience, supporting claims with evidence, and influencing decisions.

There is no major piece of work that demonstrates this outcome. Each semester we've executed complex projects within a group environment, which is mostly remote and not to toot my own horn but I've had a perfect grade for each.

This outcome has been especially important for my career development because leadership depends heavily on communication. Moving into a higher-level role requires the ability to explain strategy, align stakeholders, present complex analysis in a concise way, and communicate with credibility across functions. The program improved my confidence and discipline in professional communication, and it has made me more effective in framing business problems, advocating for solutions, and collaborating with others.

Demonstrate an Understanding of the Value of Continued Personal and Professional Development

I rated myself a 5 on this outcome because one of the clearest effects of the MBA program has been a deeper commitment to lifelong learning. Ottawa University defines this outcome as assessing the value of continued learning and proposing a plan for personal and professional development. The program did not simply teach discrete business topics; it reinforced the idea that effective professionals must continue learning as industries, technologies, and organizational needs evolve.

This outcome directly supports the next step in my career because advancement requires more than past achievement. It requires adaptability, self-awareness, and a willingness to keep developing new capabilities. Through this MBA program, I have become more intentional about how I build my skills, evaluate my performance, and prepare for future leadership opportunities. I now see professional development not as an optional activity, but as an essential part of sustained success.

Model Ottawa University Values and Culture by Practicing Mutual Respect, Encouragement, and Support Within and Beyond the Learning Community

I rated myself a 5 on this outcome because the MBA program reinforced the importance of collaboration, respect, and service in professional relationships. Ottawa University emphasizes cultivating and managing personal and professional relationships and building upon those resources to accomplish organizational goals. This outcome aligns closely with how effective leadership operates in practice, since organizations succeed through trust, teamwork, and a culture of respect.

A strong artifact for this outcome is in fact this capstone course, in which we had to assess Waymo as a company throughout the semester. Everyone was super opinionated and this required careful consideration before each step. This work demonstrates my ability to engage constructively with others, consider multiple perspectives, and contribute to shared goals.

This learning outcome has prepared me for career advancement because leadership is relational as much as it is analytical. The next step in my career will require me not only to make sound decisions, but also to bring people together, encourage strong performance, and build a positive environment. The MBA program helped me understand that professional effectiveness includes how one treats others, how one contributes to a learning community, and how one models values in everyday interactions.

Conclusion

Overall, I believe the MBA program has prepared me well for the next step in my career. The course of instruction has strengthened my ability to integrate business knowledge across disciplines, apply ethical reasoning, communicate professionally, pursue continued development, and build productive relationships. The capstone describes the program as one that draws from previous coursework and applies those concepts to current organizational issues, and that accurately reflects my experience in the program. The program has not only expanded my academic knowledge but also sharpened my practical judgment and professional confidence.

If I were to identify one of the greatest strengths of the MBA experience, it would be its emphasis on practical application. Many assignments required reflection on real business problems rather than abstract theory alone. That approach helped me see how strategy, ethics, communication, and leadership intersect in actual organizational settings. As a result, I now feel better prepared to contribute at a higher level, take on broader responsibilities, and continue developing as a business leader.

At the same time, this assessment has reminded me that professional growth is ongoing. While I believe I have met the learning outcomes at a high level, I also recognize that the next phase of my career will demand continued improvement, especially in ethical leadership under ambiguity, executive-level communication, and strategic decision-making in complex environments. For that reason, the MBA program has done more than prepare me for the next step; it has also equipped me with the mindset and foundation needed for continued advancement.

References

Ottawa University. (2016a). Graduate program-wide student learning outcomes assessment for BUS 8500 – Graduate Seminar.

Ottawa University. (2016b). BUS 8500 graduate seminar: Business policies and strategies course description and course objectives.