

## **Engineering Education: Not Just about the Math**

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It is of utmost importance that universities seek out creative ways to enhance the written and oral communication skills of their engineering students. Too many engineering students graduate and enter today's competitive job market without sufficient communication skills that will ultimately give them an edge in their profession. It takes hard work and perseverance to obtain a four-year engineering degree, yet many talented students may be overlooked due to inadequate communication skills. Although a student may be more than qualified for an engineering position, a lack of written and oral communication skills could have a negative impact on his or her perceived level of skill. Employers today are searching for well-rounded individuals who are capable of performing multiple job tasks. They demand engineers who are not only technically astute, but who can also conduct research and effectively communicate their ideas to others.

Making a concerted effort to improve the communication skills of engineering students creates a winning situation for universities, industries, and students. Universities earn the reputation of sending qualified graduates into the profession while simultaneously increasing their student job-placement rate. Industries benefit by having skilled engineers who are well versed and have the capability of designing, executing, and selling a product. Most importantly, qualified engineering students are able to sell

themselves to companies without the risk of being overlooked because of poor resume writing and/ or interviewing skills.

This paper examines the importance of written and oral communication skills in engineering professions. Additionally, it investigates various methods of teaching written and oral communication skills to engineering students in higher education. Top priority should be given to see that students are able to live up to the highest standards both academically and professionally. It is time that universities empowered their students with the additional skills necessary to survive and flourish in today's competitive and demanding job market.