

Versatility and Adaptability Are Must College Skills

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College students face a rapidly changing and demanding world that puts an emphasis on sound decision-making. Emerging technologies are rapidly and dramatically changing the workforce; many former stable job opportunities are being outsourced overseas; and international firms with foreign management teams are inexorably emerging as dominant players in the employment arena. While these changing tides can be threatening and frightening to American workers and college students aspiring to future employment, they can be, with appropriate mind sets, visionary decisions, and sensible training and education, be exciting and rewarding opportunities.

Among the mind set factors necessary for long-term employment success are: a need to become tolerant of and skillful with diversity; learning one or more languages beyond one's native tongue; travel overseas as part of your education and beyond where possible; see change as inevitable, positive, and conquerable; and avoiding stagnation in thinking, valuing, and acting. The employment arena is international, not national or local. We cannot afford provincialism, xenophobia, or nationalism if we are to succeed.

Visionary decisions that are required to exceed mediocrity include: take as much science and math courses as you can regardless of your employment intentions since jobs devoid of scientific understanding are being subsumed by robotics or being shipped overseas. Become as much of a "people person" as you can regardless of personality or proclivity. Taking courses in psychology, sociology, communication, and business management can help here as well as involving yourself in as much campus and community activity as time and energy permit.

Sensible training for enriching lifetime employment include: taking one or more internships while in college; doing quality volunteer work; networking with as wide a circle as you can; expanding your vocabulary; keeping physically fit; choosing initial jobs not for the biggest paycheck but for the greatest opportunity for learning.

Quality decision making, choice making, and hard work aimed at making yourself a versatile, adaptable, personable, technology friendly and skilled, and forward looking will give you an edge in the workplace or in the job seeking market place.