



Feng Chia University

Outstanding Academic Paper by Students

Title : Studying Graduate School or Going to Work Place?

Suggestions for Feng Chia University Students

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Abstract

The paper intends to discuss about, which one is better choice for FCU college graduates, work place or graduate school. This paper provides FCU college graduates a overall situation in work place. The situation is how people who newly obtain Master's degree and people who newly graduate from college school perform in work place. The paper also mentions that the professional skill certificates will help people to get a job easily when they step into work place. And then, it talks about how characteristic of FCU students affects their future career, and provides the FCU policies for helping FCU students' future career. After that, the paper gives some suggestions for applying a job. Finally, the paper concludes that there are two directions for college graduates and which one they should choose is depend on what industry they want to engage in their future.

Keyword : undergraduates, college student, future career, graduate, work place, job career, graduate school, professional skill certificate, advice on applying a job,

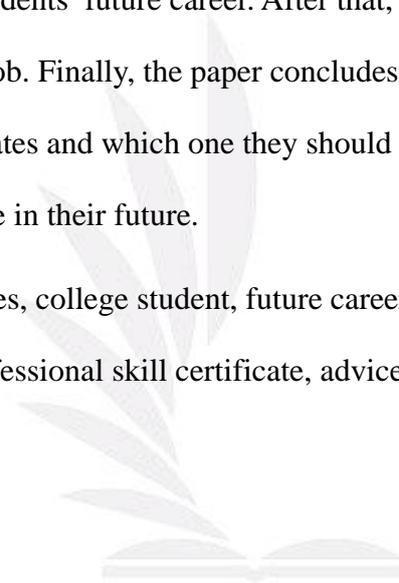


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Introduction

Motivations

I am going to graduate from college in a year; it is about time to choose the next step of my life. However, now I do confuse whether I should go to study graduate school or go into work place. According to the calculation of the Ministry of Education, there are about 32 thousands of college graduate in 97 school year in Taiwan. No matter which way they choose, both are the arduous way. However, the most important thing is which one is better for them? Most of college students believe that graduate students have a difficult time to get a job; therefore, most of students select to obtain their master's degree and start to prepare their graduate school entrance exam when they are still in college school. And this trend makes the amount of student in graduate school increase from 54,980 in 88 school year to 180,843 in 97 school year. But as far as I know, Taiwan is not only a society of high education but also a society of high unemployed rate. Therefore, should I go obtaining master's degree or go getting a job? This question prosecutes me now.

Purposes of my writing

I want to discuss after graduating college school, which kind of accesses is better for students in nowadays society. I will collect different sayings to clarify which kind of accesses is better for them and also is benefit for my future career. Also I want to find some ways to help Feng Chia University's college graduates who have the same questions with me improving themselves so that they can get ready for their future, no matter which accesses they choose.

Background Information

I heard of a survey made by 104 Job Bank and Global View Magazine and show that 84 percent's enterprise think that the master's degree is a dispensable qualification for applicants, 64 percent enterprises suggest undergraduates should get a job first after graduating college, and only 20 percent enterprises think undergraduates should go to study graduate school first after graduating college. These two absolutely opposite views make me more hesitate about my future. Beside, my parents told me, not everyone can enter graduate school. When I fail to enter graduate school, how should I do?



Literature Review

In literature review, I will focus on what experts and enterprises says about the performance in work place between people who just obtain Master's degree and who are newly graduate from college schools. Then, I will confirm the importance of professional skill certificates. After that, I will give some questions to let FCU college graduates think and those useful questions will help them to evaluate weather they should go to study graduate school. Finally, I will focus on FCU students' characteristics and how FCU students' apprise in job market, and then I find some suggestions for FCU's students and discuss how FCU helps students to get ready for their future career.

Advantages and disadvantages of studying graduate school

According to 104 Job Bank's survey, there are 69.5% of college graduates think that going to studying master's degree can increase the competitiveness in work place. However, in this survey, 53.3% newly Masters think that they still lack some professional skills. This survey shows that even though they go to study Master's degree, they still have no confidence to go into work place. They just try to postpone the time to face the problem of getting a job. As I mention before, some college graduates believe that being a Master is beneficial for them when they go into work place, but I found a statistic which said that, only 37.1% enterprises had ever hired people who have Master's degree during 2009 and compare with the statistic in 2008, this rate shows the downward trend. According to 方光瑋, the manager of 104 Job Bank, this statistics also shows that although the popularity of Masters increases greatly, enterprises are not impressed by their performance. Moreover, I find that certain positions require the talent who has Master's degree, such as Engineering P&D, Software Engineering, Product

Management, Product Planning, and Operation Assistant. The reason why those jobs need to be done by Masters is that these jobs need higher ability in the professional technique or foreign language.

The reasons for going to work place first

Cheers Magazine does the survey about how Taiwan's 1,000 famous enterprises apprise Masters in 2008, in the survey, 70% personnel managers call upon that college graduates should go into work place first if they have no idea about their own interest in career. Through working, they can find their new direction of life. And about 76.7% enterprises say that those newly graduated Masters can not perform their specialty well immediately because they lack for training and 52.9 enterprises think they need to be trained at least six months. Over half enterprises say that a valuable Master's degree needs to be obtained from an outstanding graduate school. Besides, in the survey, there is a statistic which shows that the rate of dropping out graduate school in Taiwan is 10%, it equals that there is one student drops out among ten students. The reason that causes this high rate is because college graduates go to graduate schools without deep thought. Therefore, if college graduates have no 100% confidence that they can enter a superior graduate school, or have not thought clearly about their purpose of studying graduate school, then they should consider going into work place first. In addition to, a survey of evaluating institutions which Taiwan enterprises favorite demonstrates that the population of graduate Masters is over 17, 2000 in 2007, the population has doubled in the last six years. However, although there are more and more people have master's degree, the quality of the Master doesn't rise simultaneously. In this survey, 53% enterprises think the

performance between Masters and college graduates are almost the same, and about 14% enterprises think college graduates surpass Masters in performance.

Information for FCU students to gain more advantages for future

I. The importance of professional skill certificates

方光瑋, the manager of 104 Job Bank, points out that high educational society decrease the Masters' advantages in the job market; hence, he suggests that except improving educational achievement, freshmen in work place need to strengthen their professional skills in order to increase competitiveness in work place. However, about 47% enterprises think the main reason why fresh members of work place have a hard time getting a job is that they are scantily of professional capability. (曾, 2009) But how do freshmen in work place increase their professional competence? Schultz(1990) think that education is the best way to accumulate a person's human capital. (Human capital means labors' technique and competence.) However, recently, our government promotes many policies in order to increase people's average educational level. Because of over-extended higher education, it leads to a fact of overflow of bachelor's diploma and Master's diploma. Under this circumstance, having a professional skill is one of ways to make you outstanding from other people; therefore to get professional certificates becomes a popular activity in Taiwan. Through getting different kinds of professional certificates, applicants can increase their competitiveness, and increase the opportunity of getting promote and rising salary. (黃,2009) Winner Magazine also says that getting professional certificates can increase

people's unique value and also can prove that people who have certificates really have the specialty.

II. Useful questions to help college graduates make their minds

Here are some questions made by Cheers Magazine. These questions can help those confused college graduates in evaluating which direction they can choose.

1. Why do I want to study graduate school?
2. What kind of ability can be improved after you study graduate school?
3. What are your advantages between other people after obtaining Master's degree?
4. If you want to obtain your goals, what your plans are?
5. How much do you know about the industry that you want to engage in?

III. About FCU students

Base on Cheers Magazine's investigation, enterprises think FCU graduates have high stability in work(工作定性高), only second to college students of National Cheng Kung University.

According to a news article, overall the performance in work, FCU graduates are good at soft skills. (Soft skills include Self Management Skill, Problem Solving Skill, Teamwork Skill, Communication Skill, Creative Thinking and Lifelong Learning.)

In terms of the point of views of the Human Resource, the Information Technology industry, the Traditional Manufacture industry and other industries think FCU college graduates are earnest and responsible; therefore, when it comes to manufacture technology positions, they will hire FCU college graduate in priority. While Finance and Insurance industries think FCU college graduates are zealous and brisk, so these industries will employ FCU college graduates to engage in Marketing Business. Besides, The Human Resource also suggests that FCU students should strengthen their professional abilities and proficiency of foreign language in order to increase competitiveness in work place.

2008 the survey of satisfied rate of enterprises for FCU undergraduate

Type of industry	Distinguishing characteristic of FCU college graduates	Which kind of job vacancy will employ FCU college graduates in priority
Information Technology industry	earnest and responsible	manufacture technology positions
Finance and Insurance industry	zealous and brisk	Marketing Business
Traditional Manufacture industry	earnest and responsible	manufacture technology positions
Other industries	earnest and responsible	Marketing Business

*made by FCU

IV. FCU polices to help students' future career

104 Job Bank points out that the main reason that social freshmen can not get a job successfully is that most enterprises think social freshmen are lack of working experience, so they do not understand about the situation of the job market, and even do not understand what they want. Under this circumstance, 楊基寬, the chairman of 104 Job Bank, responses that the best solution is to let college students have practical experience in work place in advance through the cooperation between universities and enterprises. In response to this situation, FCU opens **“Vocational Training Programs”** including “Communication Engineer Program”, “manufacturing Automation Program”, “Polymer and Organic Material Program”, and “Software Engineering Program.” The **“Vocational Training Programs”** focuses on vocational training, and tries to help FCU students' professional skills in job market. Also, **“Vocational Training Programs”** can redeem the gap between high education and the demand of industries, and shorten the time of looking for a job.

V. Advices on applying a job

If FCU students choose to go into work place after graduating, here is something that they must avoid when they are interview a job. According to 1111 Job Bank, candidates should avoid submitting dishonest resume, being late for interview and having no knowledge about the job that they are applying. Besides, there are some sensitive questions

that should not be mentioned including asking personal questions, spy on company confidential and inquiring about the pay for overtime.

On the other hand, there are some tips that can increase a good impression on the interviewer. Remember to attach the autobiography and to stick a personal picture, these two simple processes will add the opportunities to get a job. Besides, 洪雪珍, the manager of Yes123 Job Bank, asserts that the length of autobiography should be limited in 500 words and should be divided into three paragraphs. And the autobiography should focus on candidates' advantages which are related to the job they are applying. About the personal picture, the face should be clear, the hair should be neat and, and the clothing should be formal. Remember to take off the hat and smile when taking the picture.

Base on the survey made by 104 Job Bank in 2010 Jun, there are many job vacancy for salesmen, Operators / Technological staffs, financial professionals and customer service. FCU college graduates can apply for these jobs at first. They can get experience in work place; meanwhile, they can think about their next step. And FCU college graduates should send resume actively because 81.8% enterprises read resumes that are sent by candidates actively. Therefore, it will increase the opportunity of getting hire.

Conclusion

I tried to figure out which way is better for FCU college graduates. I read many newspapers, articles and different opinions, and then I classified those articles and opinions into three categories including comments for Masters, the reasons for going to work place and the importance of certificates. I also tried to understand how enterprises' commend FCU graduates; therefore, FCU students can improve themselves. Besides, I tried to find what kind of graduates enterprises need. Also I gave some useful advices so that FCU student can get prepared their next step of life. After doing so much research, I found that for FCU graduates, if they want to engage in industry which related to Engineering P&D, Software Engineering, Product Management, Product Planning, and Operation Assistant, they can think of going to study graduate school correlating with these industries. Meanwhile, they should obtain professional certificates so that they can have advantages in work place after graduating. In addition to, for students whose aim is not in those kinds of industry but still want to study graduate school, before making decision, they should think those questions that I named before carefully. On the other hand, as I mentioned enterprises need practical employees, and FCU opens "Vocational Training Program", it will not only help students get familiar with work place, but make them find a job easily. Therefore, students who take "Vocational Training Program", they can think of going to work place because they have had practical experience in their professional area. And for other students who want to go to work place, to have professional skill certificates is very important. Since the professional skill certificate can not only increase their

competitiveness but also show enterprises a directly proof that they do have professional skills.

There is something that I had not done. If I had a chance, I would do more researches for every FCU departments about how to make their future career go smoothly and successfully. I also want to explore Taiwan's industry structure in order to find out what kind of people they need.



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