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Infographic: Enhancing Engineering Students' Communication Skills through a Team-Based Graphics Course Project

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Enhancing Engineering Students' Communication Skills through a Team-Based Graphics Course Project

Student Testimonies



Communication skills are important for success in various corporate and community roles, especially leadership. Teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving abilities are also essential in industrial settings.



Numerous national organizations have highlighted the significance of specific skills and abilities within the engineering profession.



An introductory graphical communications course at one small, private Southeastern school is designed to familiarize students with basic principles of drafting and engineering drawing as well as to improve students' three-dimensional (3-D) visualization skills and ability to use a computer-aided design (CAD) program.



The primary purpose of the course project is to have students model the components of a product explicitly in a detailed assembly. Students must also effectively communicate their designs and thought process during each design phase of the project.



Visual Communication

"I learned to always make sure that if I was handed my drawing and told to manufacture the part or assembly that I would have all of the dimensions and information otherwise to accomplish the task"



Oral Communication

"Preparation is key to a good oral presentation."



Written Communication

"Be thorough, but concise with the language used in any [written] report."



Teamwork

"I learned that patience and respect are some of the most crucial elements of a team member. It is imperative for a team member to listen to others' ideas and respect their thoughts, opinions, and feedback."



Recommendations

Incorporating visual, written, and oral communication in a graphical communications course has produced positive feedback from student evaluations. Students saw the benefit of communication when completing a team-based, semester-long design project.

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