
Academic Futures

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“The college experience has been roughly the same for the last 100 years: You pick a major, find a school, buy the books, attend the lectures, write the papers, take the tests, get the grades, graduate, work to pay off debt.”

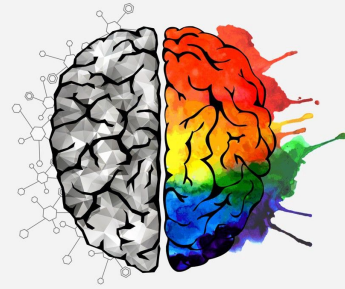
Jessica Hullinger “This is the Future of College”

Major Trends

What will the educational landscape look like in the next 10, 20, 30 years?

1. Interdisciplinary Studies
2. Technology Advancements
3. Internationalization
4. Death of the Lecture
5. Education Based on Tangible Skills
6. Student-Facing Education

Major Trend 1: Interdisciplinary Studies



- No longer narrow fields of study
- Allows students to enhance critical thinking, communication, problem solving
- Employers looking for more comprehensive, specific skills in graduates
 - “An a-la-carte, competency-based education stemming from specific requirements of industry partners in a given field.” -- Michael Muszynski, Workforce Development, CO Department of Labor
- Examples:
 - University of Southern California- Interdisciplinary Major
 - Purdue - created Theatre Engineering major at student’s request
 - At CU: TAM, E+ Engineering
 - Can improve by increasing stackable credentialing, ability to pair with other majors, minors, and certificate programs

Major Trend 2: Technology Advancements



- Blended education: online and offline learning
 - “This is the Future of College” predicts
 - Year 1: Online general knowledge; Year 2/3: hands-on classroom learning; Year 4: bootcamp/professional environment
- Massive increase in online course access (free)
 - Alternative to traditional universities
- Online systems for research institutions are growing
 - Libraries no longer prisons for books; now real and virtual collaboration hubs
 - Research institutions holding findings/organization in online databases
- Example:
 - Cornell University - Integration of technology into the classroom, utilization of a flipped classroom

Major Trend 3: Internationalization



- More international students and student travel
 - NC State to increase study abroad by 50% next year
 - Since 2004 over 60% increase in study abroad travel
- Employers more frequently seeking students w/ international experience
 - 64% of employers prefer hiring grads with abroad experience
 - Students who study abroad earn about 25% more than their peers and are 50% more likely to get a job within 12 months of graduating
- University Brands Moving Abroad (NYU, Lancaster)
 - Not a viable business model
- Instead use affiliations with universities abroad
 - University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and Chongqing University, China (international internship program)

Major Trend 4: Education Based on Tangible Skills



- Students are advancing based on tangible skills
 - Students no longer advance by checking off a box of required courses
- Higher-ed is unbundling
 - “dipping in, dipping out of educations their whole lives”
 - Instead taking courses that they will need for their careers
 - Stackable micro-certifications
- Institution - industry/ cross -college partnerships growing
- Examples:
 - CSU Collaboration Campus
 - CSU, Arapahoe Community College, Douglas County School District
 - Creates a talent pipeline
 - P&G - University of Cincinnati
 - Abaxis, Inc - Kansas State

“4 year universities must become more flexible or risk becoming obsolete”

Personal Interview with Michael Muszynski

Major Trend 5: Death of the Lecture

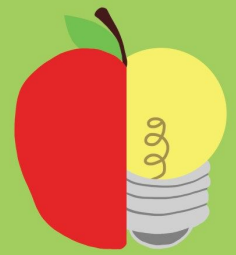


- Flipped classroom proven to increase test scores
 - Flipped classroom: learn general information at home, hands-on learning/application in class
 - Without this, universities are subject to lose business to online courses (technology advancements)
 - Harvard University, University of Michigan
- Project/case study learning increasingly important
 - Employers look for this
- Improves scalability
 - Allows more students to attend Without being on campus at the Same time
- Examples: Minerva, Cornell

93% of employers said a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than a job candidate's degree.

Source: 2013 study by the Association of American Colleges and Universities

Major Trend 6: Student-Facing Education



- Faculty focus on improving the knowledge and well-being of students
 - Teaching *and* research, not mutually exclusive
- Historically, professors designed own curriculum with no attention paid to effectiveness of teaching style
 - A new “Center for Teaching and Learning” can coach professors
 - Reward for excellence in teaching and mentorship
 - Value teaching vs. how much teaching is valued ***in the promotion and tenure process***
- Overview of student curriculum and requirements
 - More flexibility
 - Revamping teaching plans for more effective learning
 - Course forgiveness
- Example: Princeton, Yale - Emphasizes excellence in undergraduate teaching
 - Excellence in teaching given more equal weight with excellence in research

How do we get there?



- Departmental collaboration for interdisciplinary education
 - Academic advising
 - Intersecting and overlapping majors/minors
 - Current departments are heavily siloed
- Adjusting CU's structure of 4 year degree
 - More flexibility based upon student goals and career path
- Increased collaboration with industry partners and other educational institutions
- Cultural expectations
 - What is education "supposed" to look like
 - Can CU deviate too much from societal norms?
 - Parents? Faculty? Employers?

“If all you do is think about survival, you’ll ultimately perish. You have to think about prosperity.”

Jim Hundrieser, associate manager for institutional strategies on the Association of Governing Boards



Thank You!
Questions?