

**The Training of Graduate Students  
in relation to the Working Field**

**A comparison study among CETYS University  
and Mexican Universities**

PROFLEX study made by the University in Valence, Spain in November 2008,  
financed by the ALFA Program from the European Commission

Report elaborated by the Institutional Effectiveness Department at CETYS University

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# I. Introduction

As the world advances towards a Knowledge Society, a superior effective education system is more important for the economy, as well as for society. The graduate students are expected to have the most advanced and specialized knowledge and skills required by high level professionals, although often they are expected to be flexible and adaptable, capable and willing to face the challenges that are not related to the specific field they have been trained in. The Knowledge Society seems to need a new type of employee: *the flexible professional*.

The project places us in two general and interrelated questions:

- What competencies do college graduates need in order to develop their activities appropriately in the Knowledge Society?
- What is the role of higher education institutions to help college graduates develop these competencies?

Topics covered:

- ❖ Information of majors
- ❖ Other experiences in the education environment
- ❖ Working career
- ❖ Current situation
- ❖ Organization you work in
- ❖ Competencies (knowledge, abilities, skills)
- ❖ Values and orientation
- ❖ Personal Information

## I. Introduction

The PROFLEX study is financed by the ALFA program from the European Commission.

The objective of this project is to obtain outcomes on the college graduates in Latin America and to establish a comparison among Latin American countries participating in the PROFLEX project and European countries that participated in the REFLEX project.

The fundamental instrument of the project is a survey that deals with the qualitative aspects of the training of graduates in relation to the working field. This survey is being applied in some universities in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Uruguay.

The PROFLEX project began from the experience of “The Flexible Professional in the Knowledge Society: New Demands on Higher Education in Europe” REFLEX project.

Institutions that participated in REFLEX: Germany, Austria, Spain, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Belgium, Czech Republic, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan and Estonia.

The survey carried on resulted in a data base from each participating country, as well as a global one, with a total of 40,787 surveys!

## II. POPULATION AND SAMPLE

Participating universities and the number of surveyed people

<b>Country</b>	<b>Participating Universities</b>	<b>Number of surveyed people</b>
Argentina	1	219
Bolivia	1	308
Brazil	3	127
Chile	15	2970
Colombia	1	420
Honduras	1	98
Mexico	6	3278
Puerto Rico	2	106
Uruguay	6	656
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8182</b>

Mexico: BUAP, UV, UANL, USalle, UVM, CETYS

## **Major you graduated from at CETYS:**

International Business

Business Administration

Industrial Engineering

Industrial and Systems Engineering

Marketing

Computer Science Engineering

Clinical Psychology

Cybernetics and Electronics

Digital Graphic Design Engineering

Electronic Systems Engineering

Educational Psychology

Organizational Psychology

Mechanical Engineering

Manufacture

Corporative Information Systems

### III. Outcome Graphs

**What was your average college grade?**

- CETYS University Sample
- Mexico sample

## In your major:

Mexico

CETYS University

Generalist emphasis

...there was much studying to do in order to pass

Specialized emphasis

Academic prestige major

## In my college major there was emphasis in:

Mexico

CETYS University

Practices in companies, institutions, or the like

Participation in research projects

Class attendance

Group work

**In my college major there was emphasis in (continued):**

Mexico

CETYS University

Practical and methodological knowledge

Theories, concepts and paradigmas

Instructor, the main source of information

## **My college major emphasized the following teaching-learning methods:**

Mexico

CETYS University

Oral presentations

Written work

Personal study (individual work)

Learning based on projects or problems

Multiple choice tests

**Did you make one or more practices in companies, institutions,  
or the like as part of your college major?**

Mexico

CETYS University

**Did you acquire working experience  
(except during practices in companies) related to your studies?**

Mexico

CETYS University

Before entering college

During college

Working experience not related to your studies

Before entering college

During college

Working experience related to your studies

## **Has not been working and searching for work since graduated**

Mexico

CETYS University

# You work on your own

CETYS University

Mexico

## Gross monthly salary

Mexico

CETYS University

Approximately, which is your gross monthly salary?  
Regular based salary  
(dollars)

Approximately, which is your gross monthly salary?  
Overtime or commission (dollars)

## Which is the most appropriate school grade for this job?

Mexico

CETYS University

College

Master's Degree

Specialty

Not necessary to have a college degree

PhD

# How long does it take a professional with the appropriate average educational profile to become an expert on this type of job?

Mexico

CETYS University

6 months or less

7 to 12 months

1 to 2 years

3 to 5 years

6 to 10 years

More than 10 years

## Use of knowledge and skills

Mexico

CETYS University

You are satisfied with your job

Use of knowledge and skills

Requires more knowledge and skills

## Which sector does your organization belong to?

Mexico

CETYS University

Private

Public

## How responsible are you to establish and/or decide...

Mexico

CETYS University

Objectives for the organization

Work strategies for the organization

Objectives for your own work

Decide how to do your job

## How do the following statements apply to your job?

Mexico

CETYS University

Professional ethical matters are part of my activities

The co-workers, clients, etc, come to me for advice

I usually start professional relations with experts belonging to another organization

I keep my co-workers informed about new developments in my field

## How has your college major been a solid base for...

Mexico

CETYS University

Improving your personal development

Starting to work

Learning at work

Improve your professional perspectives

Develop your capability as an entrepreneur

Do the tasks of your current job

## How has your college major been a solid base for... (media)

Mexico

CETYS University

How has your college major been a solid base for improving your personal development?

How has your college major been a solid base for improving your professional perspectives?

How has your college major been a solid base for learning at work?

How has your college major been a solid base for starting to work?

**If you could go back and be free to choose a college major,  
which would you choose?**

Mexico

CETYS University

Same major and same university

Different major in same university

Same major in different university

Different major in different university

I wouldn't study a college major

## What is the importance that the following working characteristics have for you? (Values and Orientation)

Mexico

CETYS University

Social acknowledgement/prestige

Opportunity to do something useful for society

Time to do leisure activities

Working stability

High income

Feasibility to combine work and family

Work autonomy

Good professional perspectives

Face new challenges

Opportunity to learn new things

## Which is your academic situation?

Graduate student with a College Degree

Concluded college without a degree

Mexico

CETYS University