

What Engineering Students Said About, “Engineers = CGPA + Soft Skills”



by Sdr. Madhav Shyam and Engr. Ganesh Rao

THIS survey was conducted among engineering students. The question was posted in the Young Engineers Section Facebook page, Yahoo group email and blog. Some students believed Cumulative Grade Points Average (CGPA) is the most important thing for a student. Others said that, without soft skills, CGPA is meaningless. So what were the comments from some of the IEM student members? The number of sample and place of study of the engineering students were uncontrolled, and depended on the feedback given to the Young Engineers Section. ■

Engineers = Create something that has never been + Improve people's life.

By Sdr. Loo Hui

The most important thing is "Heart + Attitude + Mindset"

By Sdr. Simon Low

A good CGPA creates a good engineer; if you have soft skills, you are in high demand. If you have both, you become a legend.

By Sdr. Faiz Aimar Rusdi

To achieve a high CGPA, half of the work has to come from the final exam papers. The latter tests the students' knowledge in terms of theory. And the stronger they are in the latter, the higher the marks they will get. But what I have noticed in our country is that these students are trained to be graduates, not engineers. Some graduates face so much difficulty during their work experience because they are not used to the change from being a student to an engineer.

By Sdr. Fathihah

With the growing population in Malaysia as well as the competitiveness that comes with it, to be an engineer or any other profession requires more than just a high CGPA.

By Sdr. Natrah

These days, soft skills seems to be in demand because more employers want the best out of their employees, which can be beneficial for them. Instead of hiring three or four people, employers look forward to hiring just one person who is capable of doing the job of many.

By Sdr. Solehin

Having strong soft skills can alleviate a person's rank and can take them to greater heights. In a nutshell, a high CGPA student can already become an engineer, but with soft skills, they are the best in the business.

By Sdr. Solehah Mohd Sabri

If I have a company, I will go for engineers who have superb CGPA and soft skills, but if there are no such candidates, I will consider hiring a so-so engineer who has strong soft skills rather than a brilliant engineer without any soft skills.

By Sdr. Muhd Haikal

For me, it is like a dream thing to have, the ideal engineer; in industry life and everything out there.

By Sdr. Jian Quan

A good engineer is one who is well rounded and has good interaction skills. There are many guys who have lots of knowledge but are not good at communicating. To be successful, they need to be able to do more than just study.

By Sdr. Bevon Burke

Well, I do not think that the equation matches up because, to become a good engineer, it is not about CGPA as people can get good grades just by copying! To me, it should be "Engineer = Problem Solver + Soft Skills".

By Sdr. Sam Bayyok

I think the CGPA reflects how strong is the foundation of a person's education, however, soft skills are still more important for me.

By Sdr. Valerie Gnow

If I had to choose one, I would opt for soft skills. It is not really about what you study, it is about how you deal with what you have studied and apply it in real life.

By Sdr. Kalcharan Singh

I think that, for an engineer, the CGPA is not that important if compared to soft skill. For instance, you may not do well in exams, but you can be very creative and be good in your practical knowledge. At my university, the top scorers are the nerdy types who only know how to follow instructions just like machines.

By Sdr. Hann Binn

Having soft skills is more important than CGPA. When it comes to the real world, knowledge = CGPA. Although the latter is important, it still comes down to how well you are able to communicate and solve problems.

By Sdr. Suraj Shergill

Engineers should improve their management and soft skills. They should enhance their communication skills to interact with all kinds of people, learn to think out of the box and strengthen their leadership skills. CGPA is just a benchmark to evaluate the performance of the students as not all the theoretical knowledge taught at the universities is applicable in the industry.

By Sdr. Asyikin

While there will always be an ongoing debate on which is better, nothing is actually stopping you from excelling in both. What you learn in university are merely tools, but what you really bring with you when you start working are analytical skills. How you convince others to use it -now that is soft skills.

By Sdr. Azmi Ibrahim

Higher CGPA = Proactive or Good Engineer? I do not think that CGPA alone is enough to measure someone's performance. Many students perform well in studies, but in the real world, they fail to deliver. What I am saying is that CGPA alone is not enough. There must be a balance.

By Sdr. Krisna

Soft skills is very important and crucial. Here is an example, one brilliant engineer creates a new product, but due to the lack of soft skills, he cannot deliver or give a good presentation to the customer. In the end, the company needs to get an 'average' engineer with good presentation and communication skills to sell his product.

By Sdr. Hakka Amir

CGPA (Engineering knowledge) + Soft Skills (Socialising) + Papers (Conference/Journals) + Sports/Outdoors activities (all rounder) + additional knowledge (operations research, research, etc) + chess/scrabbles (analytical mind)

By Sdr. Ho kok Hoe