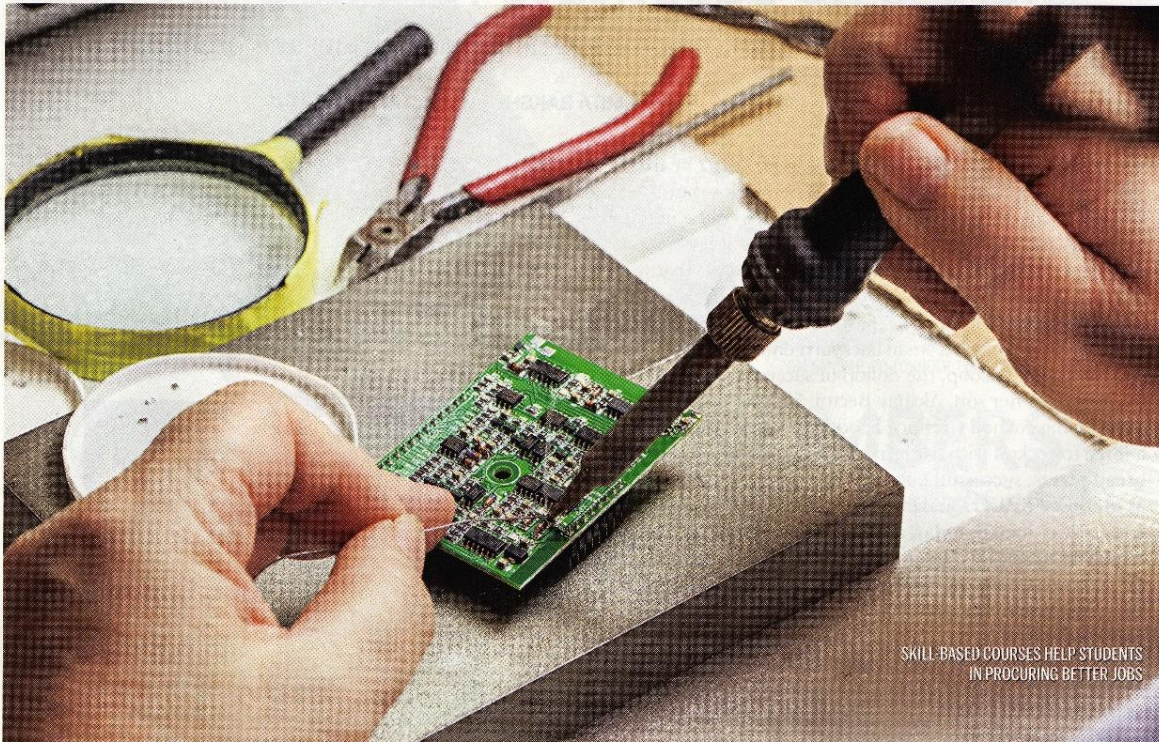


A STEP TOWARDS SUCCESS

Think out-of-the-box, opt for skill-based courses and know what it takes to make it big



SKILL-BASED COURSES HELP STUDENTS IN PROCURING BETTER JOBS

SHUTTERSTOCK

➤ Honing Skills

Prakash Menon

Bangalore-based president of Global Skills and Careers Group, NIIT, on why skill-based courses are becoming popular



These short-term courses supplement the primary courses

students are pursuing, giving them a chance to utilise theoretical learning in real life.

Vocational courses are customised for industries and offered

in collaboration with industry experts, making students employable and industry-ready.

Given the practical nature of these courses, students get

the chance to work in real time and gain hands-on experience for a particular skill they may need.

Training in industry-specific skills increases chances of

employment. Students can start working right after completing their course.

There's a big demand for skilled talent in the organised sector.

Organisations prefer such employees since they are aligned better to their internal processes.

Such courses can be driving forces for the socio-economic

growth of the country. According to a report by the *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*,

during 2009-2014, 85 per cent of students were employed in skill-based sectors.

These courses are aligned with the latest technology, helping

students stay ahead of competition. Institutes are coming up with courses that train students in skills such as artificial intelligence, analytics, and data analytics.

Certification in specific skills helps individuals get better

wages as per their calibre. Without appropriate skills, they end up doing odd jobs and settle for lower wages.



→ Telecom Trends

Satyendra Malik

Head, Group HR at Intex Technologies, based out of Delhi, on essential skills needed to be successful in the telecom industry

Speed and precision are important. Think, plan and hit the bull's eye in no time. Delays can cost you heavily. A person's swiftness in making quick decisions highlights his effectiveness.

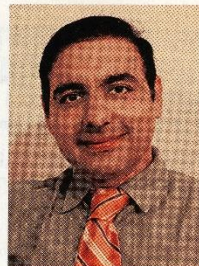
Thinking out-of-the box and coming up with innovative concepts is the key to excel. This is one trait that managers in every sector look for. Success can elude you if you fail to come up with ideas.

Don't just come up with ideas, but execute them well before they become a thing of the past. It is at the execution stage that your real skills will actually come into use.

Be ready to adapt and mould yourself to changing trends and culture. One needs to accept redundancy of thought, embrace change and be ready to adapt to the new situation without wasting time.

Effective analytical and research skills are very important. Ability to assess a situation, seek multiple perspectives, gather information, and identify key issues makes a well-rounded employee.

A customer-centric approach is the secret to success. One should know what the customer wants and deliver even before the demand arises. It is important to cater to the customer's needs in order to stay ahead in the business.



→ Interview Tips

Jatin Bhandari

Delhi-based entrepreneur and founder, Pythagurus and Interview Ninjas, on top reasons that cause students to fail their MBA interviews

Creating a convincing storyline is the biggest challenge. A storyline is the set of connecting questions that tells interviewers about your skills, weaknesses and goals. Inability to answer clearly and objectively can lead to rejection.

Students answer situational and behavioural questions ambiguously, leading to rejection. When the interviewer asks about your accomplishments, he wants to know why they are meaningful to you.



Applicants can often fail to create context for the interviewer. They forget that the listener might belong to a different background and might not understand what you are saying unless you provide a background or context.

An applicant's inability to drive the interview and highlight important accomplishments can lead to rejection. Find a way to discuss achievements while being down-to-earth. Emphasise on things you want to highlight in a way that they want to hear more.

Not knowing your resume is a big turn off. Make a resume that you know and be prepared to answer details about every point. If you are unsure of something, remove it completely.

Poor time management can lower your chances of selection. Taking six minutes to answer a question or failing to answer all questions due to paucity of time can be held against you. Remember this always during the interview.