

Misaligned Expectations

With this survey, we're trying to discover whether the university's and the industry's expectations and aims for students are quite different. Take a look at <https://misalignedtech.com> if you'd like to know more about our research.

Who should take this survey? Are you either:

- A student in Computer Science, Software Engineering, or other information technology programs at any level (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD)?
- A working professionals in the software/tech field, including a manager, a recruiter, or so? This can include both tech-related companies, or the tech sector of companies that wouldn't normally be defined "tech companies".
- A professor, teacher or assistant in Computer Science, Software Engineering or other information technology programs and classes?

If you are not in these categories, thank you for your time, but you can just skip this survey. Feel free to subscribe at our website above, to get our results when the research is done.

*** Required**

1. Please select any categories that best describe your current position. *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Undergraduate student
- ☐ Graduate student
- ☐ Professor, teacher, or assistant
- ☐ Industry professional

2. What's your age? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ below 18
- ☐ 18 - 25
- ☐ 26 - 35
- ☐ 36 - 45
- ☐ 46 - 55
- ☐ 56 - 65
- ☐ 66 or older
- ☐ I prefer not to disclose

3. What is the highest degree you earned? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ High School
- ☐ Bachelor's
- ☐ Master's
- ☐ Doctorate (PhD, Doctor of Science, etc)
- ☐ I prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

4. If you hold a university degree, what country you received your degree in? **Check all that apply.*

- ☐ USA
- ☐ I don't have a degree
- ☐ I prefer not do disclose
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Bangladesh
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ China
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Hong Kong
- ☐ India
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ Other: _____

5. If you are employed, in which country do you work in? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ USA
- ☐ I'm not employed
- ☐ I prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Bangladesh
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ China
- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Hong Kong
- ☐ India
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ Other: _____

6. If you are employed, what is the size of employees in the company's tech department? (if mostly a tech company, just state company size) **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ below 20 employees
- ☐ 20 - 100 people
- ☐ 100 - 1,000 people
- ☐ 1,000 - 10,000 people
- ☐ more than 10,000 people
- ☐ I'm not employed
- ☐ I prefer not to disclose

Undergraduate skills and expectations

* BS = Bachelor's. An undergraduate student is studying to get this degree.

* MS = Master's

* CS = Computer Science

* SE = Software Engineering

7. Currently, what do you think an UNDERGRADUATE student in CS or SE achieves, when he/she graduates? **Check all that apply.*

- ☐ He/She learns programming very well
- ☐ He/She learns computational thinking
- ☐ He/She learns project management
- ☐ He/She learns real-world problem solving handling industry-type problems
- ☐ He/She learns how to be a researcher
- ☐ He/She gets very good soft skills (communication, teamwork, etc)
- ☐ He/She gets credentials to get a good job
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

8. Are there any skills, that you think an UNDERGRADUATE student would need to learn at university, where it is not taught by universities, and are essential in working industry? **Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Programming in different languages
- ☐ Computational Thinking skill
- ☐ Project Management skill
- ☐ Real-world problem solving handling industry-type problems
- ☐ Learn how to be a researcher
- ☐ Soft skills (communication, teamwork, etc)
- ☐ Get credentials and learn skills in finding a good job
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

9. How do you think the GPA affects a fresh BS graduate's chances to get hired? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ I think it's not relevant at all.
- ☐ I think that a high GPA is totally essential to land a great first job.
- ☐ I think that a high GPA is not essential, but a low GPA can discourage employers/recruiters.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

10. How do you think the GPA affects a fresh BS graduate's professional proficiency? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ I think it's not relevant, BS GPA and first job performance are quite disconnected.
- ☐ I think that a high GPA is totally essential to perform fine at a first job.
- ☐ I think that low GPA graduates perform badly, but from average to top GPAs you can't see much of a difference.
- ☐ I think that the higher the GPA, the better a graduate performs on his job.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

11. How do you think the school choice (e.g. Top 10/Ivy League university vs random college) affects a fresh BS graduate's professional proficiency? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ I think it's not relevant at all.
- ☐ I think that a top-tier school makes a graduate fundamentally better at his/her job.
- ☐ I think a top-tier school gives a graduate a bit of a boost, but it's not essential.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

12. How long do you think it will take for a fresh BS graduate to land his/her first job, after graduation? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ I believe most of them already have an offer before graduation/after interning
- ☐ 0 - 3 months
- ☐ 3 - 6 months
- ☐ 6 - 12 months
- ☐ More than one year
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.

13. How long do you think it will take for a fresh BS graduate to become fully proficient at his/her first job, after being hired? **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ 0 - 3 months
- ☐ 3 - 6 months
- ☐ 6 - 12 months
- ☐ 12 - 24 months
- ☐ More than 2 years
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.

Graduate programs skills and expectations

* BS = Bachelor's. An undergraduate student is studying to get this degree.

* MS = Master's

* CS = Computer Science

* SE = Software Engineering

14. Currently, what do you think a GRADUATE student (for a MS program) in CS or SE achieves, when he/she graduates? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ He/She learns programming very well.
- ☐ He/She learns computational thinking.
- ☐ He/She learns project management.
- ☐ He/She learns real-world problem solving handling industry-type problems.
- ☐ He/She learns how to be a researcher.
- ☐ He/She gets very good soft skills (communication, teamwork, etc).
- ☐ He/She gets credentials to get a good job.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

15. Are there any skills, that you think a GRADUATE student (for a MS program) would need to learn at university, that it is not taught by universities, and are essential in working industry? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Programming in different languages
- ☐ Computational Thinking skill
- ☐ Project Management skill
- ☐ Real-world problem solving handling industry-type problems
- ☐ Learn how to be a researcher
- ☐ Soft skills (communication, teamwork, etc)
- ☐ Get the credentials and learn skills in finding a good job
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

16. How do you think the GPA of a GRADUATE student (for a MS program) affects a fresh graduate to get hired? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think it's not relevant at all.
- ☐ I think that a high GPA is totally essential to get a great first job.
- ☐ I think that a high GPA is not essential, but a low GPA can discourage employers/recruiters.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.

17. How long do you think a GRADUATE student (for a MS program) will need in order to land his/her first job, after graduation? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I believe most of them already have an offer before graduation/after interning.
- ☐ 1 - 3 months
- ☐ 3 - 6 months
- ☐ 6 - 12 months
- ☐ More than one year
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose

18. How long do you think a GRADUATE student (for a MS program) will need in order to become fully proficient at his/her first job, after being hired? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0 - 3 months
- ☐ 3 - 6 months
- ☐ 6 - 12 months
- ☐ 12 - 24 months
- ☐ More than 2 years
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose

Relate degrees and experience

* BS = Bachelor's. An undergraduate student is studying to get this degree.

* MS = Master's

* CS = Computer Science

* SE = Software Engineering

19. Consider two candidates for a same job. One holds a 4-year BS degree and has no job experience. The other has no degree, but has 4 years of job experience in a similar role. What do you think about the candidates' chance of being hired? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think that the BS candidate will stand more chances.
- ☐ I think that the experienced candidate will stand more chances.
- ☐ I think that they're more or less have equal chances of getting hired.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

20. Consider two fresh hires for the same position at the same company. One holds a 4-year BS degree and no job experience. The other has no degree, but has 4 years of job experience in a similar role. What do you think about the candidates' skills and performance RIGHT AFTER BEING HIRED? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think that the BS candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work.
- ☐ I think that the experienced candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work.
- ☐ They'll perform more or less the same.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

21. Consider two fresh hires for the same position at the same company. One holds a 4-year BS degree and no job experience. The other has no degree, but has 4 years of job experience in a similar role. They work at the company, in the same role, for one year. What do you think about the candidates' skills and career at that time (after 1 year)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think that the BS candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work, better promotion.
- ☐ I think that the experienced candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work, better promotion.
- ☐ They'll perform more or less the same.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

22. Consider two candidates for the same job. One holds a relevant MS degree and no job experience. The other has a BS and 2-years of relevant job experience. What do you think about the candidates' chance of being hired? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think that the MS candidate will stand more chances.
- ☐ I think the BS experienced candidate will stand more chances.
- ☐ I think that they're more or less have equal chances of getting hired.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

23. Consider two fresh hires for the same position at the same company. One holds a relevant MS degree and no job experience. The other has a BS degree, and a couple of years of experience in a similar role. What do you think about the candidates' skills and performance RIGHT AFTER BEING HIRED? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think that the MS candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work.
- ☐ I think that the BS experienced candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work.
- ☐ They'll perform more or less the same.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

24. Consider two fresh hires for the same role at the same company. One holds an MS degree and no job experience. The other has a BS degree, and 2 years of job experience in a similar role. They work at the company, in the same role, for one year. What do you think about the candidates' skills and career at that time (after 1 year)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I think that the MS candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work, better promotion.
- ☐ I think that the BS experienced candidate will perform much better; better quality, and faster work, better promotion.
- ☐ They'll perform more or less the same.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose.
- ☐ Other: _____

Ideas for possible solutions

Here, we provide a mixture of open-ended and multiple choice questions to receive your feedback on finding the best solutions on reducing the skill gap for fresh graduates entering industry.

25. In your opinion, how can students gain useful work experience during their UNDERGRADUATE studies, if any?

26. In your opinion, how can students gain useful work experience during their GRADUATE studies, if any?

27. In your opinion, what could be valid alternatives to a Master's degree for a professional in need of retraining? *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Retraining on the job.
- ☐ Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
- ☐ In-person classes in non-academic institutions (e.g. Bradfield school of computer science)
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

28. In your opinion, what would be the benefits of joining a *graduate-level online* program? **Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Time. The online program gives the schedule flexibility.
- ☐ Money. The online program mostly are less expensive than on-campus programs.
- ☐ Motivation. The topic should be of high interest, not just an imposed training experience.
- ☐ Career advancement. Success in the program should be a guarantee of a better position.
- ☐ I don't know/prefer not to disclose
- ☐ Other: _____

29. In general, which statement, in your opinion, is more accurate (if we assume that below groups have no previous job experience): **Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ The BS students are already prepared to join the industry and they do not need a higher post-graduate degree.
- ☐ The MS students are more prepared than undergraduate-level students.
- ☐ Regardless of academic degree, anybody entering the workforce for the first time will need training and time to get fully proficient.

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