

COMMUNICATION

IS A CRITICAL EMPLOYABILITY SKILL IN THE PHILIPPINE LABOR MARKET.

Two-thirds of employers reported shortages in workforce communication and interpersonal abilities (World Bank, 2017).



Many Filipino graduates feel underprepared in communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving despite completing higher education.



WAYS TO IMPROVE

Practice active listening and feedback, as other Gen Z graduates cite these skills for career success.

1

Engage in structured practice, public speaking, debate clubs, or organizational roles to improve confidence and reduce communication anxiety.

2

WAYS TO IMPROVE



3

Look for mentorship or coaching programs that offer confidence-building guidance, mock interviews, and constructive feedback.

4

Practice whenever you can by recording yourself or looking at a mirror when giving a mock speech.

FREE TRAININGS AND COURSES

A WIDE RANGE OF FREE OR SUBSIDIZED TRAINING PROGRAMS
EXISTS FOR FILIPINO STUDENTS AND JOB SEEKERS:

Government Programs

TESDA: Technical-vocational programs are offered free or at low cost.



DICT: Training in freelancing, digital jobs, e-commerce, and social media marketing



FREE TRAININGS AND COURSES



CHEd & LGUs: Periodic employability
seminars and training in partnership with
industries.



FREE TRAININGS AND COURSES



KadaKareer:



A youth-focused nonprofit providing mentorship, career coaching, and industry-specific guidance.

Koaches help students explore career pathways and gain confidence in applying skills.

FREE TRAININGS AND COURSES



Universities and Open Platforms

UP Open University: Massive Open Online
Courses (MOOCs) on education, business, and

ICT.



University of the Philippines
OPEN UNIVERSITY

FREE TRAININGS AND COURSES



Coursera, edX, Google Career Certificates:

Widely recognized online courses, many
accessible for free through scholarships.



THESE INITIATIVES DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE SKILLS GAP
HIGHLIGHTED IN PHILIPPINE LABOR TRENDS, PARTICULARLY IN
COMMUNICATION, ADAPTABILITY, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING.

WHERE TO START UPSKILLING?

FOR FRESH GRADUATES AND FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS, THE JOURNEY OFTEN BEGINS WITH UNCERTAINTY. EXPERTS SUGGEST:

Assess your needs and goals.

Identify skills in demand in target industries. For instance, the BPO sector, one of the Philippines' largest employers, values communication and customer service

1

WHERE TO START UPSKILLING?



Start small, start free:

Short courses from TESDA Online or free

MOOCs can provide quick wins and boost

confidence.

2



WHERE TO START UPSKILLING?



Practice while learning:

Apply skills in internships, volunteering, or community projects (e.g., supporting barangay businesses with social media marketing or local tourism).

3



WHERE TO START UPSKILLING?



Build a support network:

Join student organizations, online communities, or mentorship programs such as Kadakareer to gain exposure, connections, and feedback.

4



WHERE TO START UPSKILLING?



Upskilling is a continuous process:

Beginning with free, accessible resources and progressively moving toward specialized training ensures affordability while strengthening long-term career resilience.

5



REFERENCE:

World Bank. (2017). Philippines skills report: Skills for the labor market in the Philippines.
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/phippines/publication/developing-socioemotional-skills-for-the-philippines-labor-market>

Scan to visit the site!

