Disciplinary knowledge vs. core competencies

Under the huge pressure of fierce competitions among the school, the majority of students tend to focus on their disciplinary knowledge and academic performances completely in order to get higher GPA. They believe that performing well in disciplinary knowledge means more opportunities for them. But is disciplinary knowledge the only way to prove your ability? Are there any other methods to make you superior to others? Indeed, it is the core competencies, rather than disciplinary knowledge, that matter for our overall development.

What are one’s core competencies? Instead of judging an individual by exam paper, core competencies measure one’s comprehensive abilities to survive in this competitive society. Those indexes include one’s ability of setting realistic goals, exploring the unknown area, creating new ways of solving problems, completing tasks alone or cooperatively and so on. By measuring one’s core competencies, we can learn his real strengths for the competition.

First, core competencies count in terms of practicing. Utilizing knowledge is more important than knowledge itself. When we are assigned a task, we are supposed to apply our learned knowledge to practice. With high core competencies, we can organize properly, make adjustment flexibly and finish the task successfully. For example, once the teacher in the computer programming class required students to make a train ticket selling software. Those students with good disciplinary knowledge were eager to finish this task, but they were lack of preparations. Therefore, they performed not as well as they had expected in the practice. Instead, those with high core competencies made clear organizations. After they fully understood the assignment, they started to build the framework and tried to refine their programs step by step. Finally, they proved to be more effective than other students.

What’s more, people with high competencies have broader horizons than others. They are usually equipped with knowledge of all kinds of subjects instead of just their major. As a result, they can view things from different aspects and come up with creative approaches to solving the problems. For instance, students who have attended “general education” in campus prove to be more competitive than others. Those students are more knowledgeable, and have more comprehensive and careful thinking pattern. Thus, they always excel at comprehensive tasks.

In conclusion, core competencies put value on one’s comprehensive knowledge, whereas disciplinary knowledge only measures one’s academic performances. University students are responsible for the future development of our nation, so we need to take efforts to improve our practicing ability and broaden our horizons. Only in this way can we develop core competencies and survive in the fierce competition.