



How Prospective College Students Can Gain A Competitive Edge

<https://laurelridgeworkforce.com/how-prospective-college-students-can-gain-a-competitive-edge/>

Many college graduates are having a difficult time finding jobs that reflect the degrees they have obtained. This overqualified/underemployed workforce is referred to as gray-collar jobs – meaning graduates are forced to accept entry-level positions for which they are overqualified or not in their chosen career path. The notion that degrees lead to job skills lead to jobs, or those university degrees guarantee a higher salary and more career opportunities is an incomplete and unfair picture of our economy and the jobs in-demand. Ironically, employers repeatedly tell educators, legislators, and politicians they cannot find appropriately skilled job candidates.

we need to change our thinking. They claim that you can make more earnings with higher education is an incomplete and inaccurate message. From an economic perspective, parents and students and those seeking a new career are now realizing it is an inefficient investment of time and money in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. Many have come to find out that the degree they pursued was not necessary to acquire the job they need. In addition, there are too many going to college and getting a bachelor's degree. We've become an imbalanced labor force.

Giving students a competitive EDGE

<https://uwaterloo.ca/co-operative-education/news/giving-students-competitive-edge>

A new initiative to support student employability is coming to campus. [EDGE](#) is an optional experiential education certificate program for traditional (non co-op) students. The program is designed to offer students professional development, career readiness and planning for future success in the workforce.

“The University of Waterloo has a long history of exceptional experiential education for students in co-operative education,” said Jessica Lang, manager of EDGE in WatPD. “Because EDGE is a certificate program for students on the traditional track, it brings some equilibrium to the student experience under the career readiness umbrella.”

To earn the EDGE certificate, students must complete four foundational requirements: a skills identification and articulation workshop, a career development course, three work or community experiences completed alongside academic credit courses, and a capstone module or workshop focused on post-graduation planning.