

Developing Hard and Soft Skills of IT Students in Higher Education Does Not Come Cheap: The Philippine Experience

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The Information Technology (IT) Program of the De La Salle University-Manila in the Philippines is a major supplier of the best IT graduates in the country. The IT Program has been in existence for over twenty-seven years now. It has been considered as one of the Center of Excellence in the field of IT by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)¹.

The IT Program, while advancing and enriching its curriculum to be at par with international standards has observed teaching traditions such as standard syllabi, team teaching and departmental exams that made the program unique and highly effective on its own.

The objective of this paper is to impart some of the proven teaching methods employed by the IT Department in developing both the hard and soft skills of the graduates, enabling them to be the most sought after IT graduates in the country.

The success of the IT program has a prelude vision with the acceptance and positive, promising feedback earned from the various IT companies hosting the practicum (or on-the-job training) of the students towards the end of the curriculum. Hence, the paper will also share the internship experience of the IT program over the years.

Finally, this paper will also discuss some important and imminent challenges to the teaching faculty and to the IT Program.

Keywords: teaching traditions, hard and soft skills, IT practicum, IT students in higher education

¹ While there are 24 IT Center of Development (CODs), there are only 9 IT Center of Excellence (COEs) in the country and DLSU is one of the IT COE centers awarded by CHED (Commission on Higher Education). Retrieved from CHED website (<http://www.ched.gov.ph>)