

Training undergraduates for successful employment in a changing environment

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Employers have many expectations of graduates. They anticipate that graduates are able to contribute to the activities of the organization soon after they start, that they are motivated to apply their skills, that they are able to think critically about what they hear and read, and that they have a foundation on which to build further learning. It is also quite likely that the new graduate will soon be working as part of a multidisciplinary team. Thus the curriculum needs to create a graduate who is enthusiastic about statistics, is well-versed in the foundations of the discipline and has some background in the role of the statistician in a multidisciplinary team. There are complications however. What constitute “the foundations” is a hot topic in a world where data collection and information technology are changing rapidly and where there is an increase in observational rather than experimental studies.

Key Words: Multidisciplinary teams, curriculum, critical thinking