Work College graduates report that their college better prepared them for their current job, as compared with their peers.

WASHINGTON – The U.S. economy is in serious danger from a growing mismatch between the skills needed for jobs being created and the educational backgrounds (or lack thereof) of would-be workers.

That is the conclusion of an analysis of jobs data released by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. The lead author stated the report should shake up colleges—and challenge most of them to be much more career-oriented and overhaul the way they educate students to more closely align the curriculum with specific jobs and emphasize employability.¹

Ecclesia’s Work-Learning Program encourages

Character
The Ecclesia educational experience focuses on developing and living in good character with Christ as the model.

True Success
Ecclesia prepares students for true success through an innovative integration of academics, work, internships, mentoring and other hands-on experiences.

Debt Reduction
Ecclesia is so committed to providing a Christian higher education, it will award a financial aid package offsetting tuition cost to every deserving student demonstrating need.

Faith Integration
“True knowledge comes on the foundation of faith and character” [2 Peter 1:5] is a fundamental conviction both in and out of the classroom. Ecclesia allows and supports discussions regarding student faith and core beliefs alongside traditional academics.

Mentoring for Life
Every Ecclesia College student has a support system of faculty, administration and fellow students to assist and encourage them throughout life.

Service
Students serve in the local community and have an opportunity to minister around the world in places like China, India, El Salvador, Turkey and Mexico.

Work Colleges share several hallmarks: an involved and engaged student body; a focus on service that strengthens communities; and a pragmatic approach that rewards work responsibility while reducing college debt. This radically common-sense approach—of helping remove barriers to College while building career readiness—is so effective and unique PARADE Magazine highlights it as a top “Winning Strategy for Financing a College Education.”

As a conservative, Christ-centered institution, Ecclesia’s Work Learning Program makes higher education personally challenging and financially accessible to serious students. Ecclesia College serves students regardless of their family resources—building character, skills and resumes while significantly offsetting educational expenses. While the national average student debt is close to $25,250, Ecclesia students graduate with an average debt of $5,938.

Taking a distinctly Scriptural approach to all aspects of academics and campus life, Ecclesia College mentors effective leaders to strengthen the foundations of society through the life and values of Christ. Ethically developed and culturally diverse, Ecclesia students graduate with a rare combination of characteristics that today’s employers have come to value highly.

88% of Work College graduates report their work experience helped them learn how to work cooperatively in groups and teams.

75% of Work College graduates agree their work program helped them prepare for their first job.
Work Colleges offer students enhanced learning opportunities by integrating Work, Learning & Service throughout their college experience. Students earn a valuable degree plus important life and professional skills. The Work Colleges approach helps develop advanced skills and key attributes like: critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, decision-making, leadership, professionalism and a quest for lifelong learning.

Graduates go on to be effective and responsible leaders in business, community, and government. They’re smart and thoughtful—graduating with considerably less college debt than most of their peers. Three member colleges cover the full cost of tuition for qualified students.

**Work Colleges help students graduate with limited or no debt.**

Every Work Program is distinctive but all teach students the critical balance of study, community service and managed work expectations. Most work positions are limited to 10-15 hours per week. Designed to enhance the collegiate experience and reduce student debt, Work Programs also excel at cultivating career-ready qualities like responsibility and work ethic.

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**What Employers Want**

Today’s employers are looking for team players who have strong communication skills, according to respondents of the National Association of Colleges and Employers Job Outlook 2012 survey. According to prospective employers, the top ten most important candidate skills or qualities are:

1. ability to work in a team structure;
2. ability to verbally communicate inside and outside the organization;
3. ability to make decisions and solve problems;
4. ability to obtain and process information;
5. ability to plan, organize and prioritize work;
6. ability to analyze quantitative data;
7. technical knowledge related to the job;
8. proficiency with computer software programs;
9. ability to create and/or edit written reports; and
10. ability to sell or influence others.

Source: Job Outlook 2012, National Association of Colleges and Employers: [www.naceweb.org](http://www.naceweb.org)

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**A Multitude of Academic Opportunities**

The primary focus of each Work College is to provide a valuable liberal arts education. Work Colleges award bachelor degrees in traditional vocations such as education, business, computer science, nursing, psychology, art and criminal justice. Others offer less traditional fields like conservation ecology, outdoor education, environmental humanities, communication ministries and intercultural studies. Some include pre-professional programs in medicine, law and engineering often in collaboration with other institutions.
Ecclesia College can dramatically impact the professional and personal trajectory of its students by doing two simple, but critical things: First, helping students incur less college debt; and second, preparing them mentally, emotionally and practically for the professional world by integrating work and learning.

The Ecclesia commitment builds the kind of work ethic that many employers seek in the professional workplace. According to acclaimed work ethic expert Eric Chester, ¹ “many employers are using terms like disengaged and unmotivated when describing . . . the potential labor pool.” Chester goes on to identify characteristics of a ‘great employee’ as cited by today’s employers.

“Employers are searching for positive, enthusiastic people who show up for work on time, dressed and prepared properly, who go out of their way to add value and do more than what’s required of them, who are honest, who will play by the rules and who will give cheerful, friendly service regardless of the situation.”

The development of these attributes—building work ethic and good character—is the cornerstone of Ecclesia’s Work-Learning Program.

1. Assist students in graduating with limited debt.
College graduates entering the workforce are often faced with the dual challenge of finding a good-paying job in their profession and repaying the hefty burden of their student loans. Ecclesia College gives students a head start through its acclaimed Work-Learning Program. Students work a campus job for 15 hours per week every semester in addition to academic studies. Their hard work is handsomely rewarded. On average, Ecclesia students graduate with 76.5% less debt than the average college graduate.

2. Better prepare students for the professional world by integrating academic and work experiences.
Ecclesia students prepare for leadership through participation, not only observation. The College’s Work-Learning Program provides students with priceless job training and character refining experiences. The added responsibility of work creates an experiential education and a way to serve others, in a supportive environment that integrates academic learning, practical knowledge and real world experience.

“I was challenged to engage in teamwork, verbal and written communication, leadership roles and service. My interpersonal skills were improved and I gained a better understanding of God and others. I learned responsibility, diligence, thoroughness, determination. What stuck with me was . . . Things have to get done, so just get them done. Work hard in the time you have.”

Melissa, Ecclesia graduate

“I learned necessary skills in the Work Learning Program and it also helped me develop my personal character.”
Jacob, Ecclesia graduate