The Bases of Competence

Skills for Lifelong Learning and Employability

"The Bases of Competence is essential reading for executives and managers concerned about the effective preparation of the next generation of entrants to the workforce. It is the source for anyone who needs to know what specific skills the new economy demands of university graduates, as well as how to nurture these capabilities."

— Douglas T. Hall, director, Executive Development Roundtable, and professor, organizational behavior, Boston University School of Management

The Bases of Competence explains what skills and competencies students need to succeed in today's workplace and details how colleges and universities can strengthen the curriculum to cultivate these skills in their undergraduate students. The book addresses the continuing disparity between the skills developed in college and the essential skills needed in the dynamic workplace environment. By providing a common language from which to work, The Bases of Competence enables both educators and employers to create educational experiences of practical and enduring value.

Drawing on more than a decade of research on companies, graduates, and students, the authors identify four distinct skill combinations most desired by employers—Managing Self, Communicating, Managing People and Tasks, and Mobilizing Innovation and Change. Using case studies and best practices from a wide variety of institutional settings and workplace environments, the authors show how developing competencies narrows the gap between the classroom and work—providing students with a portfolio of basic skills that translate into lifelong employability.

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