

# Research on the Innovation Direction of English Teaching Reform in Higher Vocational Colleges under the Competency-Based Education

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**Abstract:** Competency-based education is one of the many important educational objectives in the cultivation of senior vocational talents. In the past education model, the importance of achievement is greater than ability. Teachers rely on the scores of test papers to classify students' grades. Competency-based education has changed this situation very well, paying special attention to students' ability training. This paper mainly studies how to better promote the reform and innovation of English teaching in higher vocational colleges and strengthen students' learning ability and vocational skills while ensuring students' ability development.

**Keywords:** Competence Standard; Higher Vocational and Technical Schools; English Language Teaching

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## 1. Introduction

Due to the continuous development of social economy, English is more and more valued by the public, and its application in society is also more extensive. In higher vocational colleges, many majors are closely related to English, and some majors cannot work without English. The main function of higher vocational colleges is to cultivate professional talents for the country, fill the gaps of professional talents in society, and promote the development of various industries in society. Students will directly enter social positions after graduation, so professional ability is very important for them.

## 2. The significance of competence-based education

In order to meet the development needs of today's society, students need to become the main participants in practical activities. Students should play a major role in teaching. Students need to find information and finally solve problems through practice and thinking. This not only exercises students' autonomous learning ability, problem-solving ability, communication and communication ability, stimulates students' potential and creativity, but also meets the needs of creative and versatile talents in the current era. Therefore, capability-based education is adapted to the development of the times. In addition, the most direct meaning of capability-based education is to improve students' personal ability. After team communication and reasonable guidance from teachers, students will have some novel ideas and be willing to put them into action. Competency-based education is conducive to the renewal and reform of the education system. It can reform the teaching methods and students' learning modes. The improvement of students' personal abilities will directly affect students' future employment, which can form a virtuous circle.

## 3. Competency-based education requires teachers to optimize the teaching system

### 3.1 Updating the traditional English teaching mode

In the past English teaching process, English teachers often only paid attention to the results of students' examinations and ignored the development of students' personal abilities and professional skills. The idea of competency-based education has affected the traditional English teaching model, which requires teachers to improve and upgrade the previous teaching model, break away from the dependence on the previous teaching ideas and models, and publicize the practical significance of skill development. In the specific teaching activities of the English curriculum, teachers must strengthen the importance of the development of students' ability, and further highlight the main position of students in the education model, taking the development of students' ability and career path as

one of the important objectives of the curriculum. At the same time, we should also help students establish scientific and reasonable values, and closely link the curriculum content with students' future career path. For example, teachers no longer take the final exam score as the main criterion, but take the students' degree of integration of English and major as the criterion. If a student can apply the English knowledge learned to his major, then in the competency-based education model, the student is excellent. In addition, teachers also need to use all available tools to promote the integration of English and students' majors according to the teaching conditions and students' conditions, and transform the knowledge learned by students in English into the strength of students' career development in the future.

### **3.2 Optimizing course content**

At the stage of higher vocational education, teachers need to change their inherent teaching concepts and highlight the dominant position of students in the classroom. Teachers need to use their professional knowledge and long-term teaching experience to optimize the classroom design and optimize the course content, so that students can obtain the improvement of English application ability when learning these contents. There are many outdated book concepts that may mislead students. Teachers need to update and correct these contents in time. The reform of English curriculum requires teachers to continuously improve the teaching methods and optimize the content of the curriculum. The low standards in the curriculum will cause students to be unable to adapt to the work or to devote themselves to the corresponding posts after entering the post. There are two ways for students to improve their ability, one is to improve their ability through practice, and the other is to improve their ability through theoretical study. Both methods need to be paid attention to at the same time, and teachers need to make efforts to combine theory with practice to improve students' ability more effectively.

## **4. Competency-based education requires improving students' practice and learning ability**

### **4.1 Cultivating students' English application ability in their posts**

At present, students' learning ability and practical ability are insufficient, which requires teachers to change their teaching thinking. Teachers can guide students to use English as much as possible in daily life and improve students' language application ability. Some teachers use full English teaching in the classroom. This teaching method is good for both English majors and non-English majors. It can exercise students' English listening and improve students' English literacy. The traditional teaching method in the past cannot meet the requirement of cultivating students' ability. Teachers can try to use situational teaching method to create a situation and ask students to carry out dialogue exercises in the situation to solve problems. Cultivating talents focuses on talents themselves, so higher vocational colleges must attach importance to the development of students themselves. The more direct method is to cultivate the students' professional ability, because most of the higher vocational students will directly participate in the work after graduation, and the professional ability of the post is particularly important for students. The performance of training post professional ability in English curriculum is to cultivate students' ability to apply English in work.

### **4.2 Being familiar with each student to better carry out capability-based education**

In real life, each student's learning ability and behavior habits are different, so this also leads to certain differences among students. Therefore, higher vocational English teachers need to make different ability training plans according to the actual situation of students. Instructors need to plan students' specific tasks and set different levels of goals for students according to their mental appearance, learning status, thinking ability, etc. Students in different professional classes will have insufficient thinking ability. For these students with relatively weak foundation, they need to improve their learning ability and practical ability step by step. In addition to the factor of specific ability, teachers need to observe and understand the students' personal learning and psychological changes, and be familiar with the psychological characteristics of students in higher vocational education, so as to ensure the development of ability cultivation activities.

## **5. Developing students' specific abilities**

### **5.1 Innovation ability**

With the rapid development of domestic science and economy, the responsibility of talent cultivation for teachers is becoming more and more arduous. In order to let innovative ideas lead curriculum development, teachers need to cultivate students' creative thinking through curriculum teaching. In English curriculum, the cultivation of innovative ability needs specific activities to carry. For example, the adaptation of the text, taking the content of the course "Comparison of Chinese and Western Culture" as an example, can allow students to adapt it into other types of articles according to the way of describing foreign culture in the text. The form, content and direction of adaptation are not limited, so as to maximize the creative thinking of students. Let students deepen their understanding of the content of the text by rewriting, and exercise their ability to draw inferences from one example. But for students who put forward wrong ideas, teachers need to give suggestions and help them make corrections. It is difficult for teachers to improve students' ability in a certain course, but it is also challenging.

### **5.2 Expression ability**

Expression ability is one of the most basic abilities that people have in daily life, and it is the basis of communication. In English courses, the cultivation of expression ability can be exercised through writing, but we should adhere to the principle of gradual progress, from simple writing to difficult writing. Continue to expand students' vocabulary reserves to improve their writing ability. The amount of vocabulary reserves affects the quality of writing, from simple sentence construction to the completion of the whole article. After the students finish writing, the teacher can ask the students to summarize the article in short words, or hold an English speech contest in the class, so that the students can improve their expression ability through English speech. The specific competition requirements are formulated according to the situation of each class. If the students of a certain class have a relatively weak English foundation, the students can retell in the way of combining Chinese and English in the speech. For some classes with a good English level, the students are required to use English throughout the speech. After the speech, they also need to answer the questions of teachers and students. It is of far-reaching significance to improve students' expression ability and enable them to achieve better development in their future work and life through different ways and methods, using English courses in higher vocational colleges as carriers.

## **6. Conclusion**

The proposal of capability-based education is of extraordinary significance and is a phased progress in the education industry. The essence of vocational education determines that English course teaching must be integrated with majors to promote students' ability progress. In the context of the new curriculum reform, English teaching in vocational colleges also needs to make changes, update the traditional education and teaching mode, and cultivate students' English application ability in the future to optimize the course content and build a diversified learning mode. Only in this way can we better practice the competency-based education model in the context of the new curriculum reform.

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