

# Research on Improving the Effectiveness of Xinjiang University's Graduation Thesis

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## ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on how to improve the quality and effectiveness of undergraduate thesis design. Participant observation, interview and questionnaire are used in this research. The research comes to a conclusion that achieving the improvement of the quality of graduation thesis needs the cooperation of organizations, teachers, students and enterprises. At the same time, it's necessary to set about from current situation, problem and countermeasure to improve the effectiveness of undergraduate graduation thesis. The innovation point of this research is the combination of quality and quantity. It focuses the changes which needs by improving the quality of undergraduate graduation thesis.

**Keywords:** Xinjiang University, graduation thesis, effectiveness

## I. INTRODUCTION

This subject lasted for three years. It conducted a comprehensive and in-depth investigation of the undergraduate thesis (design) of 21 colleges in the class of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 of Xinjiang University, and conducted interviews and discussions with teachers in charge of individual colleges. The graduates of the college conducted questionnaire surveys and interviews, focusing on three aspects: the proportion of outstanding and failed graduation thesis scores, the source of graduation thesis topics, and the types of graduation thesis topics, etc., to generally understand the basic information about the graduation thesis (design) of undergraduates in Xinjiang University.

## II. PROBLEMS IN THE GRADUATION THESIS (DESIGN) OF UNDERGRADUATES

Through the investigation and analysis of the graduation thesis (design) of undergraduates from 2015 to 2018 in Xinjiang University, the problems existing in the current undergraduate thesis (design) are summarized.

### A. The effectiveness of graduation thesis (design) is low, and the source of the thesis is relatively single

Most of the graduation thesis (design) of undergraduates comes from the students' choice or the teacher's appointment.

The proportion of faculty research is too low, indicating that undergraduates' graduation thesis can't be linked to faculty's scientific research, the topic selection of graduation thesis does not link students'

abilities to faculty's scientific research, and the graduation thesis has not become a student's ability improvement or teacher's research. The bridge did not give full play to its role as a link.

### B. The topic selection is method-oriented rather than problem-oriented, and lacks scientific and innovation

The principle of topic selection is generally not problem-oriented, but method or data-oriented. As a result, methods and data are used to select topics, which leads to the lack of scientific and innovation of selected research propositions. On the one hand, it is almost the same as the major — the analysis of specific issues lacks a theoretical basis; on the other hand, the content and perspective are the same, not novel enough; lack of ideology and connotation. In addition, it is still difficult for undergraduates to grasp the scale of graduation thesis (design) topic selection, or the topic selection is too large to control, or too small, and the research content is too simple to meet the requirements of the graduation thesis's (design) level.

The topic selection determines the efficiency and value of the graduation thesis (design) writing, and plays a key role in the quality of the thesis. However, many students have blindly fixed topics and lack a correct understanding of the importance of graduation thesis (design) topic selection. Taking Xinjiang University as an example, there are two most prominent problems in the topic selection of graduation thesis (design): First, the topic selection is too large, the connotation and extension are too large, and there are too many problems to be demonstrated. For undergraduates, due to time, constrained by factors

such as urgency, narrow knowledge, and limited space, the selection of topics is too broad, which will lead to too wide coverage and difficult to control. The second is that the topic selection deviates from the major. A small number of students study issues that are not directly related to their undergraduate majors out of personal interest, thus deviating from the professional training goals. The third is that the topic selection hardly involves social hotspots and difficulties, social surveys, and the graduation thesis is basically a "closed door" without paying attention to current events, reality and reality.

### *C. Unreasonable distribution of graduation thesis scores*

The overall distribution of the graduation thesis (design) scores of Xinjiang University undergraduates is unreasonable, and the outstanding ratio of the cases are too low, and in some colleges do not even have one excellent graduation thesis. The proportion of failing is unreasonable, and some colleges do not fail one and all pass.

## **III. REASONS FOR THE PROBLEMS IN THE GRADUATION THESIS (DESIGN)**

### *A. Organization*

The school's network operation is not very good, students can use the limited network resources, and foreign language students' graduation thesis (design) writing has caused certain difficulties; in addition, the school's inspection and supervision of graduation thesis is not strict enough, mainly because of the quality of graduation thesis is checked by the college.

### *B. Teachers*

The teacher does not "teach students in accordance with their aptitude" in the graduation thesis (design). Each year there are groups of graduates with different demands, but the teachers did not tailor the graduation thesis (design) according to the students with different needs, and still adopted some outdated and conservative topics, which led to some students in the graduation thesis (design) Plagiarism in the process. Moreover, this kind of graduation thesis (design) not only fails to cultivate students' sensitivity and love to frontier issues, but also prevents students from applying the theoretical knowledge they have learned to practice in future work.

Teachers and students lack communication, and "perfunctory" has become a pattern. Teachers don't invest enough time and energy to guide students in their spare time. At the same time, teachers focus more on the cultivation of graduate students, pay less attention to undergraduates, underestimate the practical ability of undergraduates, and believe that they cannot create valuable practice and achievements. So the teacher's

inattention makes the undergraduates in a passive state, and the phenomenon of perfunctory graduation thesis (design) continues to occur.

### *C. Students*

The various pressures of "getting it and passing" employment and postgraduate entrance examinations make students can only compress time for graduation design (thesis) work in the next semester of senior year, and more and more graduation design (thesis) training has become one or two months long and easy of the end of "Errands". Without systematic training, without supervision and inspection by supervisors, graduation design (thesis) has become an "easy task" that can be handled casually. Because there is a lot of time for graduation thesis (design), students are perfunctory and do not spend much time on social surveys. Even if they are surveyed, the reliability and validity of the survey results are also low.

Students' attitudes towards scientific research are not correct, purely to cope with graduation. At present, most undergraduates take the dissertation and scientific research very seriously, mostly in order to cope with graduation, even some students who are preparing to go to graduate school, although things such as graduation and job hunting will indirectly affect students' mood and the time and energy devoted to thesis writing. But this shouldn't be a reason for a bad graduation thesis (design). In fact, the current attitude of students towards scientific research has undergone a subversive change, or they think that the graduation thesis (design) is good or bad. Or think that scientific research is a task after graduate school.

Students lack of a certain degree of scientific research and writing literacy, which is mainly manifested in: on the one hand, the basic language skills are poor, and there are frequent typos or sentence failures in the papers; on the other hand, students find and understand relevant literature and data, as well as analysis, Insufficient problem-solving ability, unable to properly process original documents and data, only simple stacking of the data at hand, not using the professional theoretical knowledge learned to analyze and reprocess the data, and unable to propose innovative views .

## **IV. MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GRADUATION THESIS (DESIGN) OF UNDERGRADUATES**

The quality of graduation thesis (design) of undergraduates is related to the quality of talent training in the school. The improvement of graduation thesis (design) is conducive to improving students' comprehensive professional ability and overall quality, enhancing students' employment competitiveness,

thereby improving the quality of undergraduate teaching and achieving university Education is the goal of training qualified personnel for the society. Through investigation and research, it is recommended to effectively improve the effectiveness of undergraduate graduation thesis (design) from the following aspects:

#### *A. Organization*

The school scientifically arranges graduation thesis (design) guidance work, and may consider dividing the graduation thesis (design) work into three stages: the first stage offers basic and instrumental courses or special lectures on literature retrieval, investigation and analysis methods, and at the same time The teacher selects topics under the guidance of the teacher, and extensively consults materials, compiles outlines, etc. This period is also convenient for students to communicate with the instructor, and get the teacher's guidance and help. In the second stage, practical training is carried out to allow students to think about the problems encountered during the internship and write the first draft. In the third stage, after the students return to school, they will learn to further modify the thesis from the depth and innovation of the content and complete the defense work under the guidance of teachers. This will better improve the effectiveness of students' graduation thesis (design), enhance the competitiveness of employment, and lay the foundation for future practice.

In addition, schools should "teach students in accordance with their aptitude." Science and engineering students should increase the intensity of curriculum training and continuously improve their hands-on ability. After all, the course teaching should enable students to truly master the knowledge and skills they have learned, and apply and improve them in practice. For example, the electrical engineering courses of Xinjiang University are highly professional and the content is relatively abstract. Therefore, through the on-campus practical training, they can continuously consolidate the knowledge learned and be able to apply what they have learned. Learn from practice the knowledge that is difficult to learn in class, and enhance the perceptual understanding of the knowledge learned. Enhance the understanding and application of the learned knowledge. It is helpful to improve students' in-depth understanding of the topic selection of graduation thesis (design).

At the same time, the school should strengthen the supervision of the quality of graduation thesis. The selected topics should be strictly checked, and the final draft of the paper submitted by each college should be strictly reviewed.

#### *B. Teachers*

Teachers should pay attention to cultivating students' interest in scientific research and stimulate and encourage their spirit of innovation. At the same time, undergraduates should be allowed to participate in teachers' scientific research projects and activities, so as to get better scientific research training. And more attention should be paid to the cultivation and improvement of undergraduates' scientific research ability.

Teachers should adopt flexible methods to guide students' thesis (design) and combine unified explanation with individual guidance. To solve some common problems, especially when the students just start topic selection, and prepare to carry out their graduation thesis (design), graduation thesis (design) seminars are suggested to be held, with detailed introduction of the whole process of graduation thesis (design) writing. In the initial stage of graduation thesis (design) writing, the thesis proposal defense should be set, by which the graduation design ideas and thoughts of each student should be clarified, and feasible suggestions and opinions should be put forward timely. The selected topics should be consistent with the needs of social development and conform to them.

Positive communication between teachers and students is very important, so teachers should take a variety of ways to know the students' progress of graduation thesis (design), and guide undergraduates to gain rich practical experience in this process. It is the first time for most undergraduate students to write a scientific paper. In the process of writing the graduation thesis (design), enough knowledge of writing order and skills is insufficient, which needs patient guidance from teachers, but in reality the teachers' guidance is often not enough, because the teachers not only should finish the teaching task, but also need to complete a specific scientific research work, so it is difficult to have enough time to guide undergraduate writing their graduation thesis (design). At the same time, the majority of students were busy with their internship or finding a job outside, in this case, instructors could only get to know the process of student's paper via E-mail or other forms, and it is harder to keep effective supervision over the quality of paper, nor do they make strict demands on their students.

#### *C. Students*

Students should correct their attitude and attach great importance to graduation thesis (design). Graduation thesis (design) is an important part of teaching plan, it is not only the organic combination of theory and practice, but also can cultivate the students' manipulative ability and professional quality. In addition, the graduation thesis (design) writing could also effectively cultivate students' ability to apply

knowledge in analyzing and solving practical problems. Graduation thesis (design) is not only a summary and inspection of students' four years of study, but also a summative inspection of teachers' four years of teaching quality. Therefore, it is very important for students to realize the importance of graduation thesis (design) writing and improve their quality awareness.

## V. CONCLUSION

Undergraduate graduation thesis (design) is an important part of teaching practice to measure students' comprehensive level, an important aspect to measure and test the teaching quality of colleges and universities, and an important basis for students' graduation and bachelor degree qualification. Therefore, in the evaluation of undergraduate teaching level carried out by the Ministry of Education, graduation thesis (design), as an important second-level index, is listed in the first-level index of teaching effect in the evaluation index system. After decades of theoretical discussion and practical exploration, the undergraduate thesis (design) system in China has formed a relatively stable operating paradigm, which plays an active role in cultivating students' rigorous scientific attitude, strict logical ability and strict exercise training. However, with the rapid development of China's higher education, the contradiction that the quality of talent cultivation does not adapt to economic and social development is increasingly prominent. How to ensure the quality of undergraduate graduation thesis (design) is an important topic in the current teaching work of undergraduate colleges, which has also aroused extensive discussion in the academic circle.

Graduation thesis (design) is an important basis for measuring the teaching level of the organization, which has a profound impact on students' transition from professional learning to practical work and long-term development in career. It requires the joint efforts and exploration of the organization, teachers, students and enterprises to effectively improve the overall quality of graduation thesis (design). By means of researching the topic on advancing the actual effect of undergraduate graduation thesis (design), from several aspects such as current situation, problems and countermeasures, it will not only contribute to the promotion of the quality of graduation thesis (design) of students in Xinjiang university, but also promote the combination of teaching on the graduation thesis (design) with the cultivation of the students' comprehensive ability, and at the same time it is beneficial to promote the further development of the education quality of teaching, and realize the goal of talents training.

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