

7 skills that the Tec wants to teach its students



Under the premise that students should not only acquire knowledge, **but also learn through experience and master the skills required for the 21st century**, [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#) has begun its **new 2019 syllabuses in full** this August, which are designed according to the [Tec21 Educational Model](#).

The Tec celebrates its 76th anniversary on September 6, and August 12 marks the **start of a new era in its history**, when it receives **more than 12,000 new students** who will experience **full implementation of this new educational model**.

Now, the focus is on having **graduates with more experience** and **greater command** of their professional and personal **capabilities**.

“Before, we placed value on what you knew,” explains **Rector David Garza** to CONECTA. *“Now, we place value on what you can do with what you know, on learning to learn and adapting swiftly.”*

El Tec busca desarrollar en sus alumnos competencias para la vida width="900" loading="lazy">

TRAINING FOR A CHANGING WORLD

For the **International Labour Organization**, “**skills development** plays a vital role in promoting employment, economic growth, and inclusive societies.”

What’s more, in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and growing automation, several international organizations have said that today, **in addition to professional skills**, they require other essential ones such as **emotional management** and **teamwork**.

The **World Bank**, as well as a study from **Pearson**, the **University of Oxford** and **Nesta** have emphasized, for instance, the **importance of skills for standing out** in this new century.

In 2013, the Tec began the process of transforming its **educational model** and in **2015 and 2016** it began to incorporate elements such as the **iWeek** and the **iSemester**.

Desde el 2015 el Tec comenzó con actividades vivenciales en Semana i width="900" loading="lazy">

Both modes **generate experience-based learning** by challenging students with real and practical challenges **designed, supervised, and guided by a group of teachers** and an **external training partner** (which could be a company, NGO, community, or the public sector).

The **Tec21 Model** includes **two types of skills** for students to develop:

- **Disciplinary ones** (pertaining to each professional area).
- **Cross-cutting ones** (common and equally valuable to all professions).

CROSS-CUTTING SKILLS FOR DEGREES... AND FOR LIFE

“They’re known as **soft skills**... but I prefer to call them **power skills**,” says **Rector David Garza**.

“We expect students to develop not only the skills pertaining to their degree course, but also the **ability to solve complex problems** and adapt to new situations,” he adds.

Román Martínez, Vice Rector of Educational Transformation at the Tec, describes to CONECTA what skills the Tec is encouraging its students to have:

“There are **7 cross-cutting skills** which have an impact on the **quality of professional practice for any degree course**, but they’re also useful for personal life.”

These are as follows:

- **Self-Awareness and Self-Management:** Knowing who you are and being a good planner and manager.
- **Innovative Entrepreneur:** Not only setting up companies, but also being an agent of change, innovative, and having social impact.
- **Social Intelligence:** Knowing how to relate to and interact with other people and cultures, besides knowing how to negotiate.
- **Ethical and Citizenship Commitment:** Developing a sense of citizenship, honesty, and acting responsibly and ethically.

- **Reasoning for Complexity:** *Recognizing that the world is complex and knowing how to use methodologies and strategies such as design thinking, critical thinking, and learning to learn.*
- **Communication:** *Using your native language well in oral and written form, as well as presenting an idea efficiently and mastering other languages.*
- **Digital Transformation:** *Using technology to enhance processes and make them more efficient.*

Son 7 las competencias transversales del Modelo Educativo Tec21 width="900" loading="lazy">

RECENT GRADUATES WITH EXPERIENCE

The goal of the **new Tec21 Educational Model** is that students don't graduate with only theoretical and some practical knowledge from their degree courses, but with **properly acquired skills**.

Challenge-based learning is therefore essential to the Model.

The vice rector explains that these **challenges** are tackled **inside and outside the classroom**, and some challenges are tackled alongside **training partners** (companies, NGOs, public institutions, etc.).

Evaluation of students' skill acquisition is performed through **observable** and **measurable evidence** that enables teachers to certify students' level of mastery.

*"With this way of learning, **graduates are more sensitive to the needs of their surroundings**. They have a **systematic view of problems** and a **highly-developed capacity for solving them**,"* explains Rector Garza.

*"Many of the **jobs of the future haven't been invented yet**. But we're confident that our students will not only be prepared to get a job, but also **create their own opportunities**,"* he concludes.

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