

● Teaching Methodology

➤ Training Philosophy

The principal commitment for ITC is to ensure that its students achieve technical excellence. Therefore ITC provides a complete platform that includes expert teaching, the latest hardware and software, extensive library facilities and innovative training methodologies.

ITC goes one step beyond technical proficiency, though, focusing on minimizing the gap between the classroom and the workplace. This gap exists because, although students are given specific technical and functional training in the classroom environment, they are not adequately instructed on how to apply them on a practical basis in the work environment. Therefore, it is ITC's goal to provide an as-close-as-possible simulation of the industrial environment to its students. This takes the form of realistic and practical in-house training and external industrial project work.

But the true essence and also the most unique attribute of ITC can be found in its Mission Statement: "The overall goal of ITC is to build on all aspects of a student's development – encompassing intellectual, physical, moral and spiritual growth."

➤ Pre Task Tuning

Before the students enter the classroom, many require instruction on how to study and solve problems. Therefore they are taught to:

- ◆ Efficiently manage their time
- ◆ Set priorities
- ◆ Effectively attend lectures
- ◆ Establish appropriate study techniques
- ◆ Quickly gather information and conduct research
- ◆ Communicate with teachers

➤ Practical Application

Once students have been taught in detail the features of various software packages, they need to be instructed on how to practically apply these features in the real job environment. Students are asked to interview industrial employees to determine how Information Technology and specific software applications are utilized and then are given assignments by their teachers that are specifically tailored to these tasks.

The following are examples of the wide range of practical solutions that are taught:

- ◆ Interpreting handwritten documents and converting them into electronic form
- ◆ Differentiating between different formatting styles
- ◆ Generating suitable management reports
- ◆ Understanding proof-reading remarks and symbols
- ◆ Appropriate usage and the functionality of printers
- ◆ Established website design, formatting, linking techniques and standards
- ◆ Understanding customer requirements, developing appropriate integrated software, testing and implementing the resulting product using the latest tools and technologies

➤ Laboratory

ITC considers the students' time in the laboratory to be extremely important in preparing them for work in industry. Therefore it passes each student through 2 different types of simulations prior to completion of a module to ensure that the student has been exposed to and evaluated on every aspect of project execution. The two simulation types are as follows:

◆ Task Assignment

For every assignment each student is assigned a project role such as:

- Group Leader
- Analyst
- Senior Programmer
- Tester
- Code Reviewer

Upon completion of the task, the student is given a different role in the next assignment. In this way the student is familiarized with and trained in all of the various project roles.

◆ In-House Project Execution

The class is divided into several project teams. The instructor acts as Team Manager and selects certain students to act as Team Leaders. The rest of the students are assigned project roles. The entire student project team works together with little direct interaction with the instructor. To simulate the working environment in ISO and CMM standard companies, the students are required to communicate between themselves in written form within the project team. At the end of the project, an external evaluator is brought in to review the students in their roles. The students are evaluated on criteria such as attitude, punctuality, quality of work etc.