



The importance of soft skills

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Introduction

- Ferdowsi University Alumni
- Information security analyst at FUM CERT
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- Editor at ESCAPE magazine
- Teaching assistant for 8 semesters
- Current graduate student – Secure software development (@ SQLab)

What is a soft skill?

○ Hard skills such as:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Programming

○ Soft skills such as:

- Communication
- Time management
- Self confidence



Do I need soft skills?

○ Success in academia

- Developing strong connections with your professors (recommendations!) – the 7th semester is too late
- Ability to talk about your research and convince others of its importance (post-graduate opportunities)

○ Success in industry:

- Convincing others to invest in you and your ideas
- Having good connections (Atitec)

What hard skills have helped me the most?

- **Programming**

- Not just for industry! (proof of concept, understanding complicated concepts)

- **English language**

- Not just for academia (CERT projects)

- **Converting ideas to results**



What soft skills have helped me the most?

○ Self motivation

- Remind yourself why you're doing this!

○ Communication

- Create a strong network of colleagues and professors



How do I learn soft skills?

- Look at extra work as an opportunity
 - Those few extra steps can open new doors
 - Courses do not end with the semester
- Don't only focus on grades
- Participate in extra-curricular projects
- Teaching assistants!



Benefits of being a TA

- Deep understanding of the subject
- Practicing communication skills
- Practicing time management and responsibility
- Developing strong connections with professors (projects)
- Improving your CV through teaching experience



When should I learn these skills?

- Undergraduate is the best (and only?) time to learn these skills effectively
- Life gets busier as you go on
- Opportunities come and go
- A well rounded person...





Thank you for your attention

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A-1- Choosing the right work opportunities

- Work to learn, not to earn
- Invest in yourself and your future
- You won't always have this chance!