

## Reasons for the Lack of Professional Dedication Spirit in Graduate Students

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**Abstract.** At present, a great portion of graduate students lack professional ethics in their daily study and scientific research, especially in writing academic dissertation, directly leading to the frequent occurrence of academic integrity crisis, which is harmful not only to the academic authority of the graduate students' university and research fields, but also to the upgrading of the quality of their academic dissertations. This paper aims to analyze the reasons for the lack of professional dedication spirit of graduate students reflected by the quality of their academic dissertations, in an attempt to arouse the yearning and pursuit of professional dedication spirit in modern day graduate students, so that they can dedicate themselves to study, strengthen academic integrity and upgrade the quality of academic dissertations.

Professional dedication spirit, indicates a spiritual state that bases on love, a person dedicates himself to study, work and career, heart and soul, even without ego. Specifically, it includes setting up the sense of responsibility in study and work, the spirit of pursuing lofty professional ideals, and the attitude of hard working and making perfection more perfect. It also includes getting rid of the narrow insight of pursuing the interests of individual and small groups, consciously resisting the erosion of rotten ideas, owning the positive working attitude, the spirit of hard struggling, and the honesty pragmatic manner.

Nowadays, a great part of graduates lack the spirits of scientific exploration and innovation, walking the chalk, clinging to outdated customs, unable to find new problems, present new opinions, train of thoughts and methods. The results of their research are often of little practical values and research significance. Many students do not have academic goals, but obtain the graduate degree for the utilitarian purposes of escaping the pressure of finding a job, changing to a better major, getting a diploma, finding a good job, settling down in a big city and a promotion and pay raise, etc. In their eyes, attending a graduate school has become an approach of making a living. They lack the hard-working spirit, flighty and impatient, mainly focus on social communication and extracurricular activities, ignoring the acquirement of professional knowledge and skills. They start to prepare at the last moment when approaching graduation, even free ride, fake experimental data, copying others' papers, to muddle through graduation. Under such circumstances, the quality of their papers or dissertations will necessarily be very low. The unqualified academic dissertation definitely reflect the lack of professional ethics of graduate students.

The reasons for the lack of professional ethics in graduates reflected can be summed up as the following aspects:

### The Aspects of Social Environment

In recent years, many universities have larger enrollment. The quality of enrolled students has been influenced, leading to the decline of the quality of graduates and their dissertations. Quality is the lifeline of graduate education. If the expansion of enrollment scale without the premise of quality being guaranteed, will be of low or no benefit<sup>[1]</sup>. In today's society, competition is getting increasingly intensified, the society present a increasingly higher requirement on the quality of

talents. Many people have to get a graduate degree for an ideal job. However, taking the grades as the only threshold of enrolling cannot reflect graduates' comprehensive quality and scientific research ability, especially when they know little about their creativity, professional ethics and scientific spirits. As a result, those who have an impure motivation, low comprehensive quality, impetuous mentality, lacking rigorous scholarship and academic spirit, and have bad aims have been enrolled into the graduates' group.

### **The Aspects of Department of Graduate Administration**

In some sense, management is supervision, no, supervision, no management<sup>[2]</sup>. The final completion of graduate dissertation bases on the premise that each step of thesis proposal presentation, medium-term inspection, quality-test, evaluation and thesis defense, which cannot easily get through without the scientific management and effective supervision of the administrative department. However, these departments may be not strict enough in some of these processes. For example, they may give a hurried and cursory glance when evaluating dissertations, have not examined comprehensively the level of knowledge and scientific research ability of graduates. They give monotonous review comments, the rate of passing these processes is nearly 100%. The poor supervision on dissertation defense, in which there is many walk-through phenomena, leading to the readily passes of some low-standard even pieced-together theses. Consequently, part of graduates generate a mind that they can smoothly pass the whole process regardless of the quality of their theses. If things continue this way, it is harmful to the establishment and cultivation of professional dedication spirit, making them just be satisfied with getting an graduate degree without caring about the quality of dissertation.

On the other side, the graduate education nowadays are still stuck by "course prior to study" circumstance. The building of graduates' study atmosphere is not enough, there is a shortage of mutual-way open academic environment, which result in the absence of platform and opportunity for many students to express themselves' opinions, broaden their horizon, have the opportunity of practicing to generate and improve innovative ideas, unable to cultivate conscientious professional ethics in the scientific practices. Consequently, the consciousness standing on their own feet—the high-level professional spirit that scientific researchers should possess cannot be motivated. Due to the lack of innovation and independence, they hardly finish a high-quality academic thesis.

### **The Aspect of Graduates' Supervisor**

A supervisor is not only a designer or constructor of graduates' knowledge systems, but also an instructor of graduates' education and research<sup>[3]</sup>. The influences and instructions of supervisors to graduates are not only to impart knowledge and experience, guide them in professional work. More importantly, their personal values, academic quality, scholastic style, personality cultivation and charm can have recessive impact on graduate students.

However, some supervisors have not really played such a role in dedication and serving as role models. When they are faced with social temptation of benefits, they cannot endure the monotony and poverty of teaching and educating. They will be busy with social work and engagement while teaching and researching. On the one hand, their interest in scientific research decline greatly, affecting the accumulation and updating of frontier knowledge, new leading to aging of knowledge structure. On the other hand, they cannot invest more time and energy into instructing students, have to let them slide. However, supervisors' morality, characters and research attitude have unconscious and deep-rooted influences on graduate students, thereby adversely affecting their professional spirit, expertise perception and humanistic quality. As a result, students can only follow the herd in research, deviating away from engaging in scholarship and the quality of their dissertations can hardly be guaranteed.

Once graduates lack the professional ethics, their professionally academic level and research innovation ability, etc, which determine the quality of academic thesis will lose a solid thought

foundation. While the quality of dissertation is an important symbol of reflecting the level of graduate students' cultivation. Therefore, the deficiency of professional ethics is a prominent problem we are facing and solving in the development of graduate students' education. The cultivation of graduates' professional ethics has an extremely important practical significance, is crucial to the upgrading of the quality of graduates' academic dissertation, their future personal development and even the development of whole educational enterprise of graduates. The authorities to arouse the yearning and pursuit of professional dedication spirit in modern day graduate students through the above discussion, hoping they can comply with the professional behaviors, strengthen academic integrity, dedicate themselves to study and innovation. This provides intellectual assurance and motivation support for upgrade the quality of academic dissertations, promoting a substantive leap of the quality of graduates' cultivation.

## **References**

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