

*When Artificial Intelligence and Authentic Intelligence
join forces: the future of the Liberal Professions,
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AI-related challenges and developments in the higher education of Liberal Professions

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1) Key characteristics of liberal professions



- Specialized knowledge typically requiring university degree
- Autonomy and responsibility
- Activity regulated by the state, often requiring special license to practice
- Also governed by code of conduct/ ethical code
- E.g.: doctors, engineers, tax advisors, architects, journalists, interpreters, lawyers, university professors & scientists



2) Traditional characteristics of the higher education of liberal professions

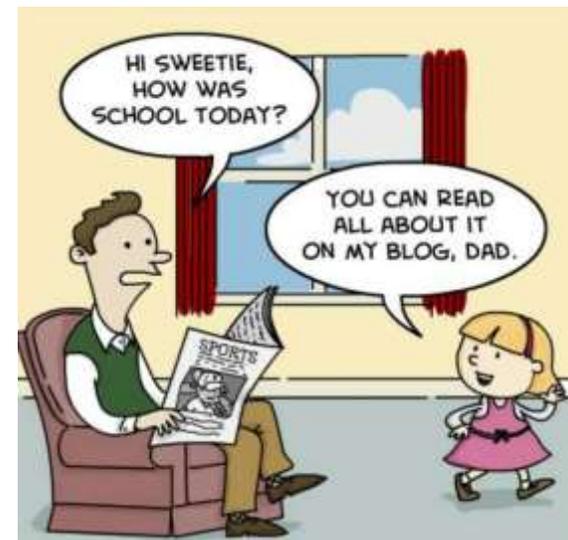


- Multi-year, discipline-specific courses that build theoretical foundation and conceptual framework
- The program typically spans 5-8 years with clear progression: basic sciences → professional theory → clinical/practical phases
- Training often requires familiarity with scholarly methods—reading, critiquing, and producing research articles, culminating in a research project or thesis
- Training involves professional values, sense of duty, service and integrity
- Close faculty-student mentorship (small seminars, tutoring, apprenticeship)
- High-stakes examinations (final exams, bar exams, professional qualifying tests)

3) Generation Z (born ~1995-2010) and learning



- Digital natives, but still value community and human connection
- High tuition fees and uncertain job markets lead to about half of Gen Z questioning whether a traditional degree is worth it → choosing quicker routes to stable income
- Uncertain future leading to shorter commitment and less concentration on career
- But at the same time they expect fast-tracked career advancement
- Mental-health-first mindset, clear boundaries between work and life, less working hours, flexible work arrangements
- Weak response to classic motivation (e.g. respect, status, money)



4) Generation Alpha (born since 2010) and learning



- True digital and AI natives, blurred lines between the physical and digital reality
- Expecting fluid integration of online and in-person experiences
- Open to global and social issues, such as sustainability
- Shorter span of attention, needing more varied and personalized learning methods and pathways
- Recent studies are already showing that excessive use of digital tools by children alters their brain development, resulting in changes in the brain's white-matter integrity (causing difficulties in language and literacy skills), poorer executive functions of working memory and cognitive flexibility, reduced neural processing of self-regulation demands (disturbed sleep, obesity, behavioural challenges)

5) Identifying the challenges posed by AI to higher education



Skill gaps
bw.
students
and
instructors

Widespread
cheating

Digital divide
increasing
social
inequality

Data privacy
and security

Less deep
learning by
humans,
erosion of
critical thinking

Algorithmic
bias, false
information,
hallucination

Regulatory
compliance
for higher
education
institutions

Development
phase of AI

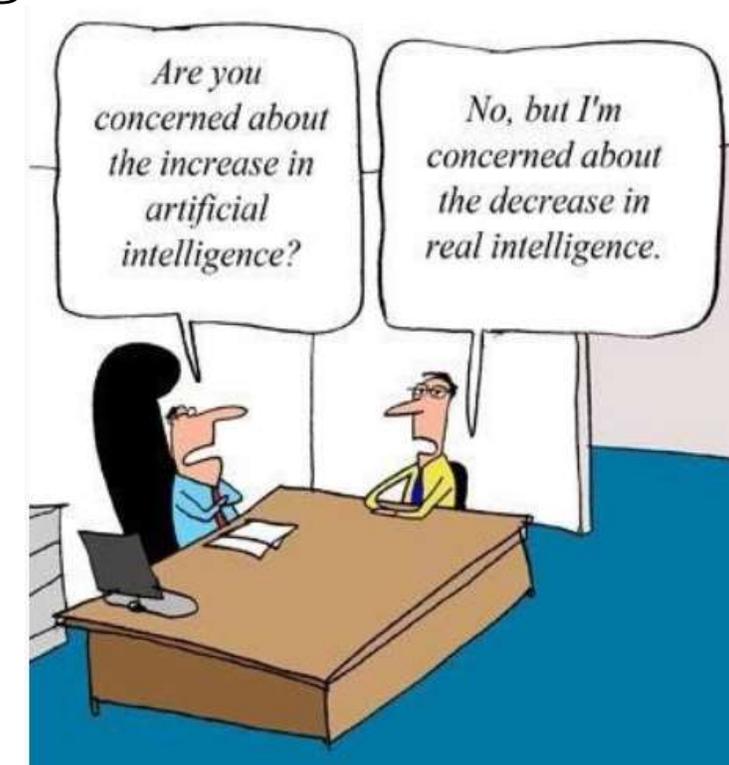
Costs
(energy,
maintenance,
etc.)

Legal and
ethical
uncertainty
in regulation

6) *Current response of higher education*



- Competency-based and outcomes-driven education with clearly defined learning outcomes
- Frequent low-stakes assessments from smaller amount of materials
- Theory and practice intertwined throughout the program
- Problem-based learning, student-centered active learning
- Mentoring/tutoring and structured reflection
- Emphasis on leadership, lifelong learning, creativity
- Global and intercultural competences
- AI and digital tools integrated into education
- BUT emphasizing human responsibility in use



Thank you for your attention!



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