

Darwinism at work: College attitude change may provide college survival

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After a period of declining student enrolment, in 2002 Telemark University College (TUC) took advantage of vocational schools reforms to establish a three years bachelor program in electrical engineering for a pilot class. The students of this class, all holding at least one relevant trade certificate, were presented a redesigned program intended to produce an output engineer "at least as good as" the engineer graduating from an ordinary program. In June, 2005, the pilot class students graduated with a Bachelor's degree. Each year, the program and student performance were evaluated and assessed. Together with the final evaluation after three years of study, it has been shown that the pilot class performs significantly better than student groups recruited the ordinary way.