

# Potentially a serious problem in the era of rapid AI adoption

## Secondary schools and universities

### do not collect data on achievements of their graduates

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#### 1. Loss of Feedback for Education Systems

If universities and secondary schools don't track what happens to their graduates — jobs, further education, research productivity, entrepreneurial outcomes, or even civic engagement — they lose crucial feedback loops about whether their programs are effective.

Without data, it's impossible to know if the skills taught align with labor market demands reshaped by AI (e.g., prompt engineering, data literacy, critical reasoning).

Curricula may remain static even as automation changes what "useful skills" mean.

#### 2. AI-Era Skill Mismatch

AI tools are transforming workplaces faster than traditional education can adapt.

Many jobs now require hybrid skills (e.g., combining domain knowledge with AI-assisted analysis or design).

Without data on graduate success, schools can't see where their alumni struggle or thrive, so they can't identify emerging skill gaps.

In short: no tracking → no insight → no adaptation.

#### 3. Missed Opportunity for Data-Driven Improvement

AI and data analytics can help educators identify patterns in graduate success:

Which teaching methods correlate with stronger career outcomes?

How do graduates who used AI tools in school perform compared to those who didn't?

Which subjects most effectively prepare students for AI-rich workplaces?

But if schools don't collect post-graduation data, they can't apply AI-driven educational analytics — the very kind of insight AI is best at producing.

#### 4. Weakened Institutional Reputation and Accountability

Employers and policymakers are increasingly looking for evidence-based performance metrics.

Without outcome data, institutions: Can't demonstrate impact or ROI.

Risk falling behind schools that use graduate tracking to refine programs and showcase success.

#### 5. Ethical and Societal Implications

Lack of tracking also means missing data on:

Equity of outcomes — are certain groups being left behind in the AI transition?

Lifelong learning needs — do alumni later require AI retraining or upskilling?

These insights are vital for designing inclusive AI-era education policy.

Suggestion:

Education systems need continuous data feedback to stay relevant, equitable, and responsive to fast-changing technological realities.

## Links

[Colleges' career success stats don't tell the whole story about how their graduates are doing after they get their degree.](#) The Conversation, December 17, 2024.

[Alumni as a benchmark of student success.](#) Adeola Matthew, The University of the West Indies. The Times Higher Education, 6 Sep 2023.

[Following Students After Graduation. Best Practices for Tracking Postsecondary and Workforce Outcomes.](#) Catherine Bitter, Kristina Zeiser, Victoria Cirks, Abigail Jeffreys, McCall Pitcher. American Institutes for Research, April 2020: 26.