A Competency Model for Culinology® Graduates

Evaluation of the Research Chefs Association’s Bachelor of Science in Culinology® Core Competencies

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Abstract

Culinology® is the blending of culinary arts and food technology (RCA, 2012). As of 2012, there are 13 RCA-approved Culinology® degree programs, but there has been no research conducted on the effectiveness of the Culinology® competencies in preparing graduates for employment in the food product development industry. The purpose of this study was to determine whether the RCA’s Bachelor of Science in Culinology® core competencies prepared graduates for successful employment in the food product development industry. A sequential explanatory design was used for this research. In the first stage, a survey was used to measure the graduates’ and employers’ perceptions of the importance and frequency of use for each competency. In the second stage, interviews with purposefully selected graduates and employers were conducted to gain more insight on the results of the first stage. The results indicated that a gap existed between what the employers and graduates perceived as the most important competency, and graduates are not fully prepared for employment in the food product development industry. Employers rated the Culinary Arts competency much higher than the graduates. The primary reason is that graduates are hired for their culinary arts competence, but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the company’s but are often placed in positions that did not utilize those culinary skills due to the hierarchy of the 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