

# Research on Innovative Ways to Integrate “Curriculum Ideological and Political Education” into Higher Vocational English Education



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**Abstract:** In the educational context of the new era, the development of English education in higher vocational colleges has received increasing attention. Integrating it with “curriculum ideological and political education” has become an inevitable trend in cultivating the all-round development of high-quality talents. The integration of higher vocational English into “ideological and political courses” is not only a need to meet the needs of the times but also an important way to improve students' ideological and political literacy and comprehensive English ability. Based on this, this article first analyzes the significance and existing problems of integrating higher vocational English into “curriculum ideological and political education”, and then elaborates on specific implementation measures, aiming to provide new ideas and strategies for the development of higher vocational English education.

**Keywords:** vocational English education; ideological and political curriculum; innovation path

## Introduction

With the continuous development of our country's economy and the acceleration of globalization, English, as an important tool for international communication, has become increasingly prominent in higher vocational education. However, simply emphasizing the cultivation of language skills can no longer meet society's demand for high-quality talents. Therefore, integrating higher vocational English into ideological and political courses has become an urgent need to cater to the trends of the times and cultivate a new generation of students with international competitiveness and social responsibility. The integration of higher vocational English into ideological and political courses requires not only innovation in educational content but also improvement in training objectives. By emphasizing social responsibility, values, international perspective, and other curriculum ideological and political

elements, we can truly cultivate higher vocational English students with more humanistic care and a global mind.

## 1. The Significance of Integrating Higher Vocational English Education into Ideological and Political Courses

### 1.1. Cultivate students' sense of social responsibility

Integrating higher vocational English into ideological and political courses cultivates students' sense of social responsibility, helps build a more harmonious and positive social atmosphere, and lays a solid foundation for students' future careers and social participation. Through curriculum design, teachers will encourage students to participate in social practice, volunteer services, or club activities, to combine English learning with social reality, which will help cultivate students' awareness of social participation, so that they can more actively integrate into society and care for others (Zhang, 2023). In English teaching, teachers will also

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infiltrate moral and ethical concepts to encourage students to form correct moral judgments and codes of conduct, shape students' good moral character, and then become upright and responsible members of society. By cultivating a sense of social responsibility, higher vocational colleges will cultivate well-rounded talents, so that students can improve their language skills while also having a positive sense of social responsibility and citizenship. This not only meets the goals of higher vocational English training but also enables students to become established professionals qualified and socially responsible talents.

### **1.2. Strengthen values education**

Introducing topics and texts involving values in English classes and encouraging students to discuss and debate can cultivate their ability to think and judge independently, as well as their ability to distinguish right from wrong, good and evil, and improve students' thinking level. For example, through case analysis, practical activities, and other forms, students can practice core values in real life, which is not only beneficial to the overall development of individuals but also helps to build a harmonious society. In higher vocational English classes, teachers will also consciously infiltrate the values advocated by the country, such as some mainstream values, to guide students to form a correct world outlook, outlook on life, and values, and to cultivate students' positive and positive attitude towards life.

### **1.3. Expand students' international horizons**

Teachers will introduce rich English teaching materials to students, involving the culture, history, customs, and other contents of different countries and regions so that students can have a deeper understanding of multiculturalism in the process of learning English, and help cultivate students' cross-cultural communication capabilities and improve their adaptability in an international environment. Introducing international topics in higher vocational English teaching and organizing students to conduct international exchange and cooperation projects can cultivate their ability to

communicate effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds, and also help improve students' international competitiveness and enable them to better integrate globalized society (Ji, 2023). Teachers will add links to the practical application of English in the course, such as simulated international conferences, cross-cultural communication practice, etc., so that students can use English in actual scenarios. This process can enhance students' practical language application ability and enable students to better cope with the situation of language difficulties in future work and interactions.

### **1.4. Improve students' comprehensive quality**

Integrating values throughout the curriculum into higher vocational English will not only help students develop language skills but also improve students' comprehensive literacy. Teachers will design tasks covering various language skills based on the perspective of curriculum ideological and political, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing, etc., to enable students to comprehensively improve their language skills during the English learning process, and students will better use English to communicate, express and communicate. When introducing ideological and political elements into higher vocational English teaching, teachers will also encourage students to think deeply and analyze information, cultivate their critical thinking, improve students' critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, and enable them to face complex problems more adaptable. For example, by setting tasks in actual scenarios, such as simulating business meetings, writing professional documents, etc., students can apply language skills to actual work and life, thereby improving their practical operation capabilities and making them better adapt to the needs of career development.

## **2. The Current Situation of Integrating Higher Vocational English into Values Throughout the Curriculum**

### **2.1. Insufficient integration into the overall curriculum**

At this stage, some English teachers in higher

vocational colleges still focus on the cultivation of language skills but do not pay enough attention to the integration of values throughout the curriculum elements. The selected teaching content mainly focuses on the teaching of language knowledge such as grammar and vocabulary, and lacks in-depth content involving ideological and political content, resulting in an insufficient proportion of the values throughout the curriculum component in the overall curriculum. Some higher vocational English teachers are relatively conservative in teaching design and prefer traditional language teaching models. It is difficult to integrate values throughout the curriculum elements into all aspects of the curriculum, making the guidance of the curriculum in ideological and political education unclear and difficult for students to form systematic ideological and political concepts (Chen, 2023). From the perspective of colleges and universities, the lack of diversified teaching resources related to values throughout the curriculum, including case analysis, field trips, etc., will also limit teachers' flexible use of diverse teaching methods in teaching.

## **2.2. The level of existing teachers needs to be improved**

Because higher vocational English teachers are accustomed to traditional language teaching methods in teaching, it is difficult to integrate values throughout the curriculum elements into the curriculum. Therefore, they have insufficient understanding of the concepts and methods of ideological and political education, resulting in limited application in practice. In addition, the training of English teachers in higher vocational colleges in the aspect of values throughout the curriculum is relatively weak and lacks a systematic and in-depth education and training system, such as insufficient training content and poor training channels. Moreover, values throughout the curriculum requires teachers to have interdisciplinary knowledge reserves, but some higher vocational English teachers do not have enough knowledge in related fields, making it difficult to organically introduce ideological and political education

elements into English teaching.

## **2.3. The teaching evaluation system is imperfect**

The current evaluation system used by teachers mainly focuses on the assessment of English language skills and the evaluation of the integration effect of values throughout the curriculum is relatively weak, making it difficult for students' learning and development in values throughout the curriculum aspects to be fully reflected in the evaluation. For example, the existing evaluation system lacks evaluation indicators that comprehensively cover the ideological and political elements of the curriculum, and the examination of students' ideological and political literacy, social responsibility, and other aspects is not systematic enough. If curriculum ideological and political education is only evaluated through examinations, it may not be able to fully and accurately reflect students' understanding and application of ideological and political education in real life, causing students to only stay at the test-taking level for curriculum ideological and political education (Wang et al., 2023). From this perspective, English teachers in higher vocational colleges should improve the evaluation system to make it more in line with the goals and requirements of curriculum ideological and political education, and more accurately and comprehensively measure the effectiveness of students' ideological and political education, and then promote higher vocational English teachers. The effective implementation of ideological and political curriculum in vocational English.

## **3. Paths for Integrating Higher Vocational English Education into Values Throughout the Curriculum**

### **3.1. Develop content with curriculum ideological and political elements**

In the context of the new era, the integration of values throughout the curriculum in higher vocational English is an inevitable requirement to promote the all-round development of students. Integrating ideological and political elements into

English teaching, can not only improve students' comprehensive literacy but also help cultivate their social sense of responsibility, international perspective, and values. Integrating values throughout the curriculum can also inject the spirit of ideological and political education into higher vocational English teaching, making English learning more in line with social needs and cultivating high-quality talents with more social responsibility and innovative ability. Teachers can choose topics related to socialist core values, such as social responsibility, cultural exchanges, etc., and design course content related to ideological and political elements to guide students to think about social, cultural, and other issues in language learning (Zhang et al., 2023). When necessary, organize students to participate in social practice activities, such as volunteer services, cultural exchange activities, etc., to cultivate their sense of social responsibility and teamwork ability. For example, teachers can design English courses with the theme of energy and environment, and guide students to pay attention to environmental protection and sustainable development by studying English literature in related fields. Schools can hold lectures and seminars in the fields of energy and environmental protection, invite relevant professionals to share their experiences and expand students' international horizons. Teachers should also pay attention to introducing international energy policies, environmental protection regulations, and other content in the classroom to encourage students to think about global energy and environmental issues.

### **3.2. Pay attention to teacher training and strengthen the construction of teaching staff**

Building a teaching team with values throughout the curriculum literacy is the key to ensuring the quality of values throughout the curriculum integration of higher vocational English. It is also an inevitable requirement for cultivating English teachers with ideological and political awareness, and it is a powerful measure to lead the all-round development of students. The professional level and ideological and political abilities of the teaching staff

are directly related to the effect of integrating higher vocational English into the values throughout the curriculum. Therefore, colleges and universities should encourage teachers to participate in academic seminars and research projects, improve their theoretical level of ideological and political education, promote interdisciplinary exchanges between faculty and teachers from other disciplines, and carry out collaborative research and curriculum design (Li, 2023). Teachers can also create cross-disciplinary teaching teams to form an atmosphere where they can jointly discuss the integration of curriculum ideological and political education and participate in practical activities when necessary, such as social practice, business visits, etc., to enhance their ability to actually apply ideological and political concepts. Schools should also provide online training resources so that teaching staff can conduct training anytime and anywhere to improve their flexibility and initiative. For example, a values throughout the curriculum professional training program can be established to conduct regular training every year, including subject knowledge, ideological and political theory, and teaching methods. English teachers are encouraged to participate in ideological and political education research projects organized by the school to improve their research capabilities. We can also work with professional teams inside and outside the school to discuss how to incorporate more ideological and political elements into English teaching.

### **3.3. Establish a scientific and comprehensive integrated teaching evaluation system**

Traditional evaluation methods cannot fully reflect students' performance in the values throughout the curriculum. Integrating Vocational English into the values throughout the curriculum requires a scientific and comprehensive evaluation system to ensure that students can fully develop their language skills and ideological and political literacy. Teachers can establish a scientific and comprehensive integrated teaching evaluation system to gain a more comprehensive and objective understanding of students' English learning and

ideological and political development and promote the effective realization of the values throughout the curriculum goal. By designing diversified evaluation criteria, including language skills, ideological and political literacy, teamwork, etc., we ensure that the evaluation system can fully reflect the development of students. Comprehensive assessment projects should also be introduced into the evaluation projects, such as comprehensive practice projects, social research reports, etc. so that students can reflect on their language skills and ideological and political literacy in practical problems. For example, teachers can design multiple evaluation standards including language skills tests, ideological and political literacy assessments, comprehensive practice projects, etc. It also introduces interdisciplinary assessment and organizes interdisciplinary assessment activities every semester to ensure that curriculum ideological and political education can be fully integrated into English teaching. The evaluation method should implement student self-evaluation and peer evaluation, and encourage students to actively participate in evaluation to promote a deeper understanding of the content of curriculum ideological and political education (Qin, 2023).

### **3.4. Strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation and promote students' all-round development**

Interdisciplinary cooperation can make the ideological and political curriculum in higher vocational English education more in-depth, facilitate the integration of disciplines, and promote the all-round development of students. The new era requires higher vocational English to incorporate more ideological and political elements into the curriculum, which requires collaborative cooperation between different disciplines to enable students to develop more comprehensively in English learning. Schools can set up interdisciplinary teaching teams, including teachers from English, ideological and political education, and related majors, to jointly design teaching content that integrates curriculum ideological and political education. Courses containing multi-disciplinary elements can be jointly designed through regular meetings and seminars to

ensure the organic integration of content in various disciplines (Tong & Lu, 2022). In addition, by organizing interdisciplinary exchange activities, such as academic lectures, teaching observations, etc., teachers are encouraged to have an in-depth understanding of the content and teaching methods of other subjects. Taking Shaanxi Energy Vocational and Technical College as an example, the school can set up an interdisciplinary team composed of teachers from English, energy engineering, and other disciplines to jointly promote the integration of curriculum ideological and political education into English courses, and introduce actual cases of energy engineering into core courses to make Students learn the knowledge and applications of related subjects in English learning. Teachers should organize regular interdisciplinary teaching and research activities and conduct subject integration research to improve the effectiveness of curriculum integration.

### **Summarize**

To sum up, in the current context of rapid social development and globalization, it is more urgent and important to innovate the path of integrating higher vocational English with curriculum ideological and political education. With the continuous evolution of science and technology, economy, and culture, society's demand for high-quality talent is also increasing. Vocational English education is no longer just about cultivating language skills but also needs to cultivate comprehensive talents with a sense of social responsibility, international vision, and core values. Teachers should continue to deeply explore the characteristics of the industry, learn from advanced international experience, and combine the application of emerging technologies to further expand innovation paths, thereby promoting the smooth reform of English courses in higher vocational colleges.

### **Conflict of Interest**

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest to this work.

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