

NEWS BREAK

Article: **They graduated from Stanford. Due to AI, they can't find a job**

Section: **JOBS, C12**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, January 18, 2026**, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

Feel free to adapt this lesson for your students. For instance, some educators may assign this as a homework task, while others might facilitate the reading and discussion of questions within small groups or larger class discussions.

****Please take a moment to review all NIE content before classroom use to ensure it is suitable for your students.****

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Learning Objectives:

The learning objective of this article is to explore and analyze how advances in artificial intelligence are reshaping entry-level employment in the tech industry, particularly for recent computer science graduates, and evaluate the skills and career strategies needed to adapt to an AI-driven job market.

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the meaning of the word.

“The industry for programmers is getting very **oversaturated**,” Akgul said.

Oversaturated Guess:

Oversaturated Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. A Stanford software engineering degree used to be considered what?
2. _____ has devalued it to bronze, recent graduates say. The elite students are shocked by the lack of job offers as they finish studies at what is often ranked as the top university in America.
3. When they were freshmen, _____ hadn't yet been released upon the world.
4. Today, AI can _____ better than most humans.
5. "Stanford computer science graduates are struggling to find _____ - _____ jobs" with the most prominent tech brands, said Jan Liphardt, associate professor of bioengineering at Stanford University. "I think that's crazy."
6. Stanford students describe a suddenly skewed job market, where just a small slice of graduates — those considered "cracked engineers"—what does this mean?
7. Employment for specific groups, such as early career software developers between the ages of 22 and 25 has declined by nearly _____ % from its peak in late 2022, according to a Stanford study.
8. It wasn't just software engineers, but what two other careers were highly exposed to competition from AI?
9. The Stanford study estimated that entry-level hiring for AI-exposed jobs declined 13% relative to less-exposed jobs such as _____.
10. A common sentiment from hiring managers is that where they previously needed 10 engineers, they now only need "_____ skilled engineers and one of these LLM-based agents," which can be just as productive, said Nenad Medvidovic, a computer science professor at the University of Southern California. "We don't need the junior developers anymore," said Amr Awadallah, CEO of Vectara, a Palo Alto, Calif.-based AI startup. "The AI now can code better than the average junior developer that comes out of the best schools out there."
11. One study found that AI tools made experienced developers 19% slower at work, as they spent more time doing what?
12. Students should focus on learning how to do what?

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?

Deeper-Dive “Connect & Explain” comprehension questions for small groups, entire classes or journal entries and/ or essay prompts for extended enrichment:

- AI can now do some jobs that people used to do. How does this make you feel about the future of work? Explain your thinking using one example from the article.
- The article says the tech job market is “oversaturated.” Describe a time when too many people wanted the same thing. Do you have a personal example you can share? How does that help you understand the article?
- If you were a student graduating today, what skills would you want to learn to prepare for jobs in the future? Why?
- Do you think technology creates more opportunities or more problems for workers? Explain your answer.
- Some graduates choose to stay in school longer instead of entering the workforce. Do you think this is a smart strategy? Why or why not?
- How does AI widen or narrow inequality between workers with different levels of experience or education?

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