



## Stanford eCorner

### To MBA or Not?: Technical Degree or MBA

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/870/To-MBA-or-Not-Technical-Degree-or-MBA>

Worthington would not trade his technical degree for an MBA. He sees entrepreneurship being about breaking many of the rules that one learns in business school. He sees being able to lead as much more important to having an MBA, and suggests practical experience as a better alternative.



#### Transcript

Definitely should I would not do differently. When it comes to actually being an entrepreneur, most of the time you're either making it up as you go or you're actually breaking a lot of rules. I noted one earlier in my presentation which is that we did this wrong. If you read the textbooks, if you unfortunately go to business school and see what you're supposed to do, you're supposed to analyze the market, you're supposed to find an opportunity, you're supposed to quantify this and that and the other and then go find solutions that can serve into that. When it comes to being an entrepreneur, my background is technical and absolutely that was essential because I need to be able to get into the guts of how this thing worked and didn't work so you can make decisions early on. Much more important than having an MBA is being able to lead, and I don't think you learn that quite frankly in school. I learned how to lead being a boat skipper in commercial fishing in Alaska and log cabin building also in Alaska. That's where I learned how to lead under tough circumstances. So no, the one thing which is definitely worth getting a course on but I'm sure you can get it here in the engineering school or the business school is accounting. Just learn how to read a balance sheet, learn what it needs, understand what margins are and what they aren't and what's incremental and absolute and all that kind of stuff.

You need that grounding definitely.