



## Female student who worked as a hired peanut harvester and rice planter graduates as valedictorian with near-perfect scores.

**Witnessing her mother's year-round hard work to support her four daughters' education, Ninh Thúy Hoa always told herself she had to try harder. That effort helped her graduate as valedictorian with a near-perfect GPA of 3.99/4.0.**

Memories of days spent picking peanuts, planting rice for hire, and the burden on my mother's shoulders. Concluding her four years of university with a cumulative GPA of 3.99/4.0, Ninh Thúy Hoa has reaped well-deserved rewards after a persistent journey. In that moment of joy, Hoa didn't think much about her near-perfect grades, but rather about the days she spent helping her mother harvest peanuts, pick corn, and plant rice in the fields of her hometown in Bac Ninh . There were difficult times, she recalled, "when we didn't even have 10,000 dong in the house." Those memories became the driving force that prevented the girl from giving up on her journey to conquer the university lecture halls.

As the second of four sisters, Hoa has two younger siblings who are still in school. The economic burden almost entirely falls on her mother's shoulders, as she works a few acres of rice paddies while also doing odd jobs to supplement the family income. Therefore, Hoa's childhood memories are not of trips or expensive gifts, but of days spent working in the fields with her mother.

"During the scorching summer days, the whole family would go planting and harvesting chili peppers, digging up potatoes, pulling up peanuts, and picking corn. When the season came, we would go rice planting, and after planting, we would work as hired laborers... Even during the cold winter days, it was the same. Some days, after working for only a short time, I would be exhausted and want to complain, but I didn't dare to tell my mother. I only worked in the fields for a few hours and found it hard, while my mother endured the rain and sun day after day, month after month, to raise and educate four sisters," Hoa recalled emotionally.

Despite the hardships, the mother never let Hoa and her sisters fall behind their friends when it came to their education. Seeing the wrinkles and beads of sweat rolling down her mother's shoulders, the girl soon understood that if she wanted to change her family's life, education was the surest path. As she grew older and witnessed her mother's increasing hardship, Hoa vowed to study hard, not only to change her own future, but also so that one day her mother would no longer have to sacrifice her health for her children.

A 500,000 VND rented room and a lifestyle of "1000% energy".

On her first day at university, Hoa set herself a principle: "I must study hard to be worthy of all that my mother has sacrificed." She didn't see it as pressure to get high grades, but as a responsibility to her family's sacrifices. To minimize expenses, Hoa initially lived in the school dormitory. Later, she and a friend rented a small room for only about 500,000 to 700,000 VND per person per month to make it convenient for her to work part-time. Hoa's student meals mostly consisted of simple food prepared by her mother and sent from her hometown.

Aware of the value of money since her part-time jobs in 9th grade, Hoa proactively sought part-time work in recruitment in her second year of university to cover her living expenses. Seeing her petite figure always carrying a heavy backpack and striding briskly through the lecture halls, her friends often tease Hoa, calling her the girl with "1000% energy". A female student's daily schedule is always packed: one session for classes, one session working part-time for 4 to 5 hours, evenings participating in club activities, practicing for performances, studying foreign languages, and late nights for self-study.

"I proactively schedule a packed schedule to keep myself busy. I'm not afraid of being tired; I'm only afraid of missing out on my youth and wasting my mother's sacrifices," Hoa shared.

Secrets to achieving a 3.99/4.0 GPA.

To maintain a perfect A grade for all eight semesters, Hoa believes that the important thing is not to study the most or constantly "cram late into the night," but to find a method that suits her. Looking back over the past four years, Hoa has chosen the image of a "Five-Good Student" as a symbol of her journey: good academics, good ethics, good physical fitness, good volunteering, and good integration. For this girl from Bac Ninh, knowledge is the foundation of her profession, but ethics and a sense of responsibility are the roots of a person.

Hoa's perseverance and strong character not only earned her excellent grades but also opened doors to a promising career at a very young age. Even before officially receiving her diploma, Hoa was hired by a law firm, taking her first steps on the path to litigation. Commenting on this exceptional student, Associate Professor Dr. Nguyen Van Dang, Rector of the University of Science, Thai Nguyen University, expressed his pride. According to Dr. Dang, the University of Science has witnessed many students from disadvantaged backgrounds excelling in their studies, but in Hoa, the teachers see an exceptionally strong will.

"Despite her difficult family circumstances, she never once asked for tuition fee waivers or demanded preferential treatment from the school. She was completely proactive, quietly and resiliently overcoming all adversity to not only graduate with excellent grades but also to become the top student in the entire school," Mr. Dang shared.

Speaking about her goals for the next five years, Thúy Hoa doesn't place much emphasis on achieving a grand title or position, but rather aspires to become a professional with "heart and integrity, always maintaining kindness and professional ethics." Looking back on her journey, the greatest gift Hoa received was not just her excellent degree, but the fulfillment of a promise she made to her mother years ago.

"If I could say one thing to my mother after receiving my degree, I would just say: I've graduated, Mom! I've finally got the Bachelor of Law degree I've always dreamed of. Your daughter is stronger now. I'm confident enough to protect the people I love, and first and foremost, to protect you – the angel of my life," Ninh Thúy Hoa shared.

**Source:** <https://www.vietnam.vn/en/nu-sinh-nho-lac-cay-thue-tot-nghiep-thu-khoa-voi-diem-gan-tuyet-doi>