

Top Skills and Qualities Employers Seek in College Grads

Each year, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) surveys employers across the country and asks them to rate the top qualities and skills they seek in their new college hires. In addition to the major-specific knowledge you are gaining in your academic classes, these skills are necessary to help you be competitive when you begin to apply for internships, jobs, or graduate school. Take the time to evaluate your qualities and skills, identify your strengths and areas of growth, and establish a plan to continue to further develop these critical success factors.

Top Skills/Qualities Employers Look For:

1. Ability to work in a team
2. Leadership
3. Communication skills (written)
4. Problem-solving skill
5. Strong work ethic
6. Analytical/quantitative skill
7. Communication skills (verbal)
8. Initiative
9. Technical skills
10. Detail-oriented
11. Flexibility/adaptability
12. Computer skills
13. Interpersonal skills
14. Organizational ability
15. Strategic planning skill
16. Friendly/outgoing personality
17. Creativity
18. Entrepreneurial skills/risk-taker
19. Tactfulness

Source: National Association of Colleges and
Employers (NACE) 2012
Job Outlook Survey