



Essential Skills for the Future

What does it take for a young professional to enter into the world of work and be successful? [The Urban Education Research Center](#) surveyed young professionals to discover the essential skills most needed in the workplace.¹ They found:

Essential Skill	Defined	Percent who identified the skill as being important at their job:
COMMUNICATION	Connecting “effectively” with clients, co-workers, supervisors and other collaborators across multiple channels	92%
COLLABORATION	Recognizing the skills and knowledge of colleagues across a wide range of disciplines in team settings	85%
CRITICAL THINKING	Problem-solving to synthesize information, anticipate challenges and build strategies that result in continued progress	84%
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	Treating others with empathy and respect, building relationships, and establishing a shared purpose that promotes belonging	84%
PROACTIVITY	Initiating and acting on opportunities to learn, innovate, and add value to a team or organization	89%
EXECUTIVE FUNCTION	Taking personal responsibility to work independently, manage tasks and resources for deadlines and dealing with ambiguity	85%

Similarly, The World Economic Forum compiles lists of skills they see critical to the future.

1. Analytical Thinking
2. Active Learning and Learning Strategies
3. Complex Problem-Solving
4. Critical Thinking and Analysis
5. Creativity, Originality, and Initiative
6. Leadership and Social Influence
7. Technology Use, Monitoring, and Control
8. Technology Design and Programming
9. Resilience, Stress Tolerance, and Flexibility
10. Reasoning, Problem-Solving, and Ideation

These skills are grouped into four categories (problem-solving, self-management, working with people, and technology use and development).²

Reflection:

1. As you consider instructional experiences in your classroom, which elements in the chart above and the list to the left apply?
2. How might these lists inspire student experiences that integrate these essential future-ready skills?

We hope you enjoyed these ideas for your classrooms! –Aaron and Shawna

¹“The Essential Skills Report” by Urban Education Research Center, DeBruce Foundation, and KC Rising

² “The Top 10 Job Skills of Tomorrow” on WeForum.org