Learning Priorities of Executives and Hiring Managers, 2018

Very Important* Skills for Recent College Graduates

- Able to effectively communicate orally: 85% in 2014, 90% 2018
- Critical thinking/analytical reasoning: 81% in 2014, 78% 2018
- Ethical judgement and decision-making: 81% in 2014, 77% 2018
- Able to work effectively in teams: 83% in 2014, 77% 2018
- Able to work independently (prioritize, manage time): 77% 2018
- Self-motivated, initiative, proactive: ideas/solutions: 76% 2018
- Able to communicate effectively in writing: 82% in 2014, 76% 2018
- Can apply knowledge/skills to real-world settings: 82% in 2014, 76% 2018

*8–10 ratings on a 0–10 scale; 15 outcomes tested
Source: Hart Research Associates

Experiences Valued by Employers, 2018

Much More Likely to Hire Recent Graduates with This Experience

- Internship/apprenticeship with a company or organization: 52% 2018, 60% 2014
- Project in community with people from different backgrounds/cultures: 29% 2018, 37% 2014
- Multiple courses requiring significant writing assignments: 29% 2018
- Research project done collaboratively with peers: 28% 2018, 33% 2014
- Advanced, comprehensive senior project (thesis, etc.): 28% 2018
- Service-learning project with a community organization: 24% 2018, 32% 2014
- Study abroad program: 18% 2018, 16% 2014

Much/Somewhat more likely

- Business Executives: 93%, 94%
- Hiring Managers: 72%, 83%

Source: Hart Research Associates