

Skills for Success

Interpersonal Skills

Employers are looking for candidates who possess skills that prepare them to make immediate contributions. In addition to a solid academic background, employers want you, as a university graduate, to have demonstrated ability in the following skill areas: Communication, Leadership, Teamwork, Technical and Interpersonal. These skills and traits are not exclusive to those who study a particular major, but can be developed by individuals in any major. So start now! Incorporate skill development into your academic experience. Take steps to make your career dreams become career realities.

You can develop interpersonal skills in classes and experiences that emphasize human relationships and provide opportunities to interact with people. Here are some possibilities:

Classes

Look for classes that emphasize cultural awareness, communication skills, leadership development and human relationships.

Examples of course rubrics; this is not an inclusive list.

- Agricultural Education (AGED)
- Asian American Studies (AAS)
- Communication (CMN)
- EPSY 203 (Social Issues Group Dialogues)
- Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS)
- Latina/o Studies (LLS)
- Psychology (PSYC)

Possible Minors and Certificates:

- Communication Minor
- Cultural Studies Minors
- Language Minors
- Leadership Certificate
- Leadership Studies minor
- Public Relations Certificate
- Translation Studies Certificate
- Global Studies Minor

Experiences

- Conduct interviews with people to gather information
- Lead a support group or discussion group
- Volunteer for a telephone hotline
- Be a mentor for children or teens
- Volunteer as a tutor, coach, camp counselor, or teacher
- Volunteer in literacy programs or conversational English programs
- Tutor grade school children
- Work as a camp counselor or recreational leader
- Interview job candidates
- Work in programs to orient incoming freshmen or international students
- Be trained as a student mediator
- Become a hospital or nursing home visitor
- Get a part-time job as wait staff
- Do summer work in customer service
- Work in a clinic or hospital
- Volunteer in a women's shelter
- Be a Resident Advisor