21ST CENTURY EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

A LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS OF SOFT SKILLS IN IMPERIAL COUNTY

The San Diego-Imperial Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research analyzed online job postings to identify the top 21st century employability skills in Imperial County. A "21st century employability skill" is any skill or quality that can be classified as a personality trait or habit. These skills have also been referred to as "soft skills," "baseline skills," "essential skills," and "emotional intelligence."

25 SKILLS, 6 CATEGORIES

The 25 most commonly listed 21st century employability skills in online job postings are provided below and organized into six categories.¹

The top 10 skills with the most online job postings in 2019 are marked with an asterisk (*).



Effective Oral and Written Communication

- Bilingual*
- Communication skills^{2*}
- · Presentation skills
- Writina*
- 1,325 job postings



Collaboration Across Networks

- Building effective relationships
- Customer service*
- · Positive disposition
- Teamwork/collaboration*

1,207 job postings



Initiative and Entrepreneurialism

- Leadership
- Planning*
- Project management
- Self-starter
- Supervisory skills

959 job postings



Accessing and Analyzing Information

- Analytical skills
- Basic mathematics
- Detail-oriented
- Research*

674 job postings



Agility and Adaptability

- · Flexibility/adaptability
- Meeting deadlines
- Multi-tasking*
- Organizational skills*
- Time management

667 job postings



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving*

456 job postings

of online job postings in Imperial County by category (2019)

most popular

east popular

¹These six categories were adopted from Wagner, Tony. The global achievement gap: Why even our best schools don't teach the new survival skills our children need—and what we can do about it. 2008.

² Includes "written communication" and "verbal/oral communication"

Important Disclaimers

All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. This study examines the most recent data available at the time of the analysis; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the report findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.







For the full report, visit myworkforceconnection.org/labor-market-information/reports or coeccc.net.

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