

CAREER INSIDER

WHAT EMPLOYERS REALLY WANT

We asked members of WKU's Career Development Employer Advisory Board to share what they want students to know before entering the workforce. Their answers went beyond having a strong resume. Employers highlighted key soft skills such as communication, adaptability, problem-solving, professionalism, accountability, and a willingness to learn and grow. [Read about our board members here!](#)

Here are a few takeaways directly from our Employer Advisory Board:

Be Willing to Learn

Employers do not expect students to know everything on day one. They want employees who are coachable, open to feedback, and willing to learn new things.

Communicate

Strong communication means more than speaking well. Employers want people who can listen, ask questions, work through problems, and communicate professionally.

Be Adaptable

Your first job may not look exactly like the job description. Employers encouraged students to be willing to learn beyond their initial responsibilities and adapt to different workplace environments.

Take Initiative

Being proactive means anticipating needs and taking initiative. Employers value employees who take responsibility and look for ways to contribute.

Be Authentic

You do not have to be perfect to make a good impression.

"It's not about perfection. It's about being authentic."

"We don't expect you to know everything when you graduate. We're willing to teach you our business and the skills you need to succeed."



"Students need to move past the job description and be willing to learn something new to make themselves more valuable."

JOLEE'S JOURNAL

SEAS Engineering & Computing

October 13th | 11am - 2pm | EBS

SEAS Construction Fair

October 14th | 11am - 2pm | EBS

SEAS All-Majors Fair

October 15th | 11am - 2pm | EBS

Business Internship Fair

October 21st | 12pm - 3pm |
Chandler Hall

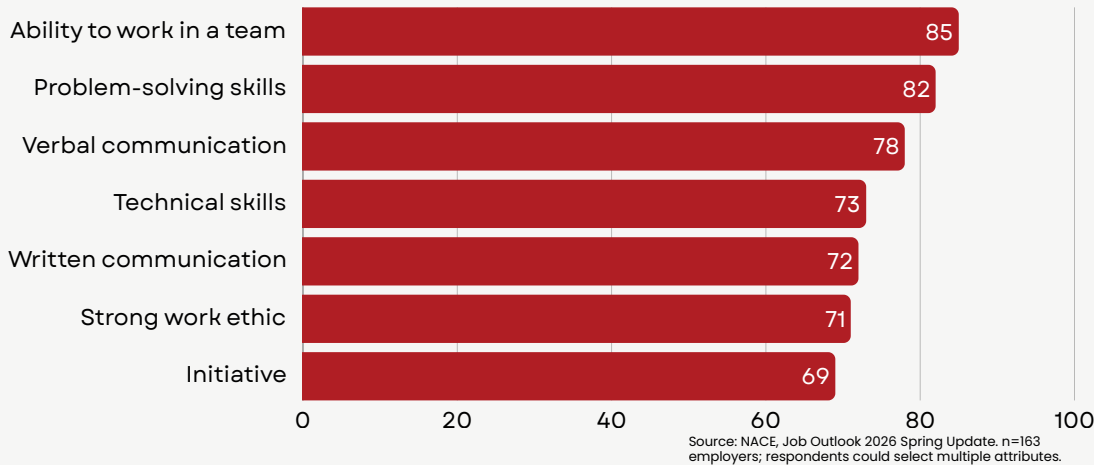
Disney College Program

October 22nd
10am - 12pm Tabling in DSU Lobby
1pm, 2:30pm, 4pm in DSU 2025

WHAT THE DATA SAYS

The feedback from our Employer Advisory Board reflects what employers are reporting nationally.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) 2026 Job Outlook Spring Update, employers identified the following as some of the most important attributes they seek on student resumes:



Wayne's Wisdom

"Your first job is an opportunity to grow and learn from those around you. Be willing to listen, collaborate, and contribute because success comes from working together."

HOW CAN YOU SHOW EMPLOYERS YOU HAVE THESE SKILLS?

Think about experiences from: Class projects, Campus jobs, Internships, Student organizations, Volunteering, Research, Leadership, and Part-time jobs

Instead of simply saying: "I have strong teamwork skills."

Be ready to explain: "I worked with a team of four classmates to complete a project, divided responsibilities, and helped resolve a disagreement about our approach." These experiences demonstrate your teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and adaptability to employers.

Before Your Next Interview or Career Fair, Ask Yourself:

- Can I give an example of working on a team?
- Can I describe a problem I helped solve?
- Can I explain how I responded to feedback?
- Can I give an example of adapting to a new situation?
- Do I have questions ready to ask an employer?

Brian's Bulletin

Employers want to understand how you contributed and what you gained from your experiences. Prepare specific examples that highlight your skills rather than memorizing answers.

Holly's Hints

"Your communication skills can open doors and build trust. How you communicate is just as important as what you bring to the table."

Don't forget to [schedule an appointment](#) and get your CareerFella!



SEPTEMBER RECAP

Career Conversations Workshop

September was all about helping students feel more confident connecting with employers and building professional relationships.

Our Career Conversations Workshop equipped students with practical strategies to introduce themselves, start conversations, ask meaningful questions, and make strong first impressions.

Whether students were preparing for a networking event, career fair, interview, or simply meeting a professional for the first time, the workshop focused on making those conversations feel a little less intimidating.



Employer Networking Event



Students then had the opportunity to put those skills into practice at our Employer Networking Event.

The event brought WKU students and employers together in a welcoming environment. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, explore industries and career paths, and practice professional conversations.

For many students, it was a chance to step outside their comfort zone and discover that networking doesn't have to be intimidating. It starts with simply saying hello.

Takeaway

Career conversations can open doors.

You don't have to know exactly what you want to do or have the perfect introduction. Start by being curious, asking questions, and learning from the people you meet. Every conversation is an opportunity to build confidence, learn something new, and grow your professional network.

Missed these events? Keep an eye on the ACDC calendar and social media for upcoming workshops, employer events, and opportunities to connect!

