

# THE SKILLFUL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY WORKPLACE

**Psychology provides skills that employers value.**



## COGNITIVE

**Analytical thinking:** Solve complex problems, attend to details, plan proactively, and display comfort with ambiguity.

**Critical thinking:** Display proficiency with statistics, program evaluation, and research design necessary for the study of social and technical systems.

**Creativity:** Use innovative and resourceful approaches to problem solving and new tasks.

**Information management:** Be adept at locating, organizing, evaluating, and distributing information from multiple sources.

**Judgment and decision making:** Engage in logical and systematic thinking and ethical decision making when considering the possible outcomes of a particular action.



## COMMUNICATION

**Oral communication:** Demonstrate strong active listening and conversational abilities in both informal and professional environments, as well as aptitude for public speaking and communicating scientific information to diverse audiences.

**Written communication:** Comprehend relevant reading materials to produce professional documents that are grammatically correct, such as technical or training materials and business correspondence.



## PERSONAL

**Adaptability:** Adjust successfully to change by responding in a flexible, proactive, and civil manner when changes occur.

**Integrity:** Perform work in an honest, reliable, and accountable manner that reflects the ethical values and standards of an organization.

**Self-regulation:** Manage time and stress by completing assigned tasks with little or no supervision; display initiative and persistence by accepting and completing additional duties in a careful, thorough, and dependable manner.



## SOCIAL

**Collaboration:** Work effectively in a team by cooperating, sharing responsibilities, and listening and responding appropriately to the ideas of others.

**Inclusivity:** Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and individual differences and similarities by working effectively with diverse people, respecting and considering divergent opinions, and showing respect for others.

**Leadership:** Establish a vision for individuals and for the group, creating long-term plans and guiding and inspiring others to accomplish tasks in a successful manner.

**Management:** Manage individuals and/or teams, coordinate projects, and prioritize individual and team tasks.

**Service orientation:** Seek ways to help people by displaying empathy; maintaining a customer, patient, or client focus; and engaging in the community.



## TECHNOLOGICAL

**Flexibility/adaptability to new systems:** Be willing and able to learn and/or adapt to new computer platforms, operating systems, and software programs.

**Familiarity with hardware and software:** Demonstrate competency in using various operating systems, programs, and/or coding protocols; troubleshoot technical errors; and use software applications to build and maintain websites, create web-based applications, and perform statistical analyses.

## About This Document

The *Skillful Psychology Student: Prepared for Success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace* was commissioned by the American Psychological Association's Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education (CABE).

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## Related Readings

Appleby, D., Young, J., Van Kirk, J., Rudman, J., Naufel, K. Z., Spencer, S. M., ... Richmond, A. S. (2019). The skillful psychology student: Skills you will need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century workplace. *Psychology Student Network*, 7(1). Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/psn/index>

Naufel, K. Z., Spencer, S. M., Appleby, D., Richmond, A. S., Rudman, J., Van Kirk, J., ... Hettich., P. (2019). The skillful psychology student: How to empower students with workforce-ready skills by teaching psychology. *Psychology Teacher Network*, 29(1). Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/ptn/2019/03/workforce-ready-skills>

## Suggested Citation

Naufel, K. Z., Appleby, D. C., Young, J., Van Kirk, J. F., Spencer, S. M., Rudmann, J., ...Richmond, A. S. (2018). *The skillful psychology student: Prepared for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace*. Retrieved from: <https://www.apa.org/careers/resources/guides/transferable-skills.pdf>