

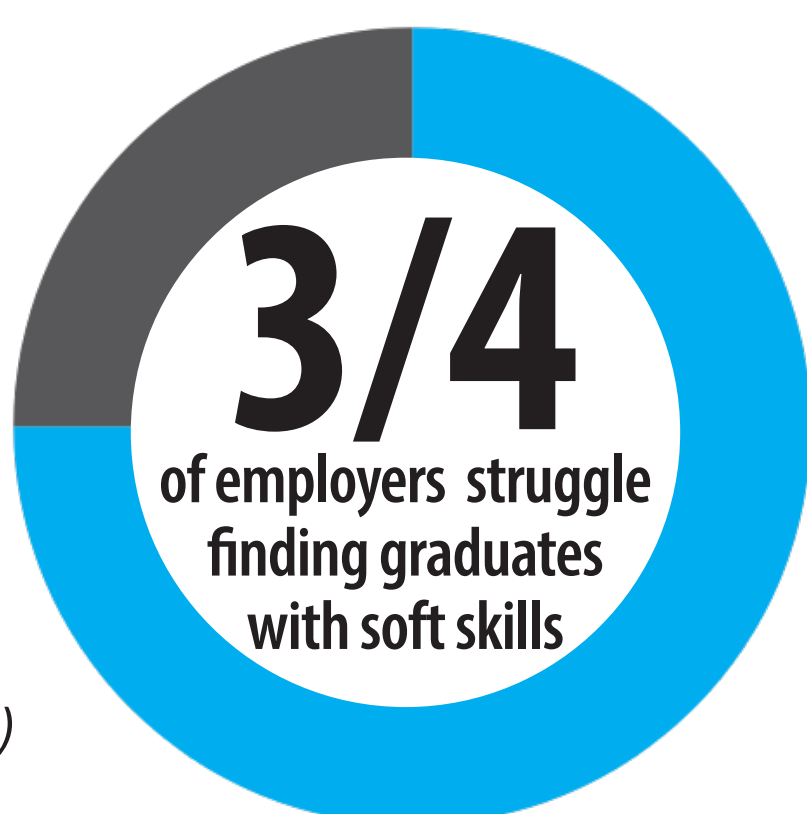
CAREER SUCCESS



Career & Technical Education (CTE) is helping address the nation's projected deficit of 6.5 million skilled professionals, including those in infrastructure, health care and manufacturing. (1)

Successful CTE programs focus on the development of both hard and soft skills, ensuring graduates are college- and career-ready.

Three in four employers say they have a hard time finding graduates with the soft skills they need to succeed. (2)



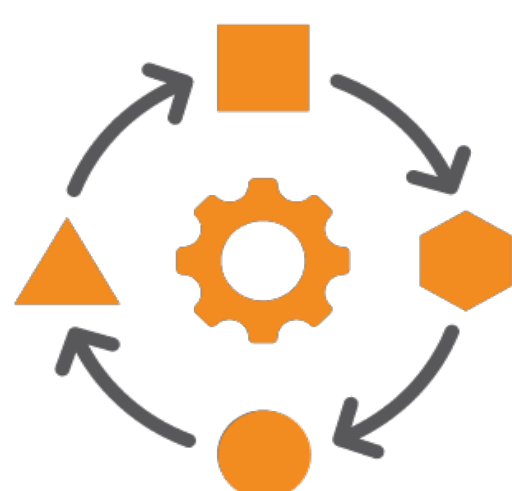
Career Success Conversation Starters ³



Communication

The ability to convey messages in a clear and compelling way, and understand the needs of others and respond to feedback

- What does effective communication look like?
- Why and when do we need it?
- Describe a situation where you have seen good and bad communication.



Adaptability

The ability to adjust to changing circumstances, and learn new skills and technologies to remain relevant in the workplace.

- What are some examples of adaptability skills?
- Why is adaptability so important today?



Problem Solving

The ability to come up with alternative solutions, including identifying and addressing complex challenges and opportunities in a variety of contexts.

- How does problem solving benefit the workplace?
- Describe a problem you faced recently and how you solved it.
- What could you do to improve your problem solving skills?



Teamwork

The ability to work with others toward a shared goal.

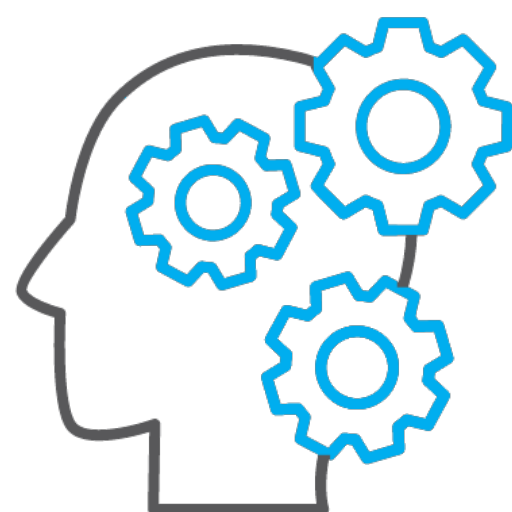
- Why is teamwork important in the workplace?
- Describe a time when you have had to work in a team recently.
- How does a good team member behave? How does a bad one behave?



Emotional Intelligence

The ability to recognize and understand one's own emotions and those of others.

- Why is emotional intelligence particularly important in today's collaborative work environments?
- How might emotional intelligence aid in conflict management?



Critical Thinking

The ability to approach problems and challenges with a strategic and analytical mindset.

- Why is critical thinking important?
- What are some examples of critical thinking skills?

1. Association for Career and Technical Education. (n.d.). CTE today. Retrieved from <https://www.actonline.org/cte-today/>
2. Flynn, M. (2023, May 30). The soft skills debate is over. Forbes. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mariaflynn/2023/05/30/the-soft-skills-debate-is-over/>
3. Forbes Advisor. (n.d.). 20 essential soft skills examples for your career. Forbes. Retrieved June 12, 2024, from <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/soft-skills-examples/>