

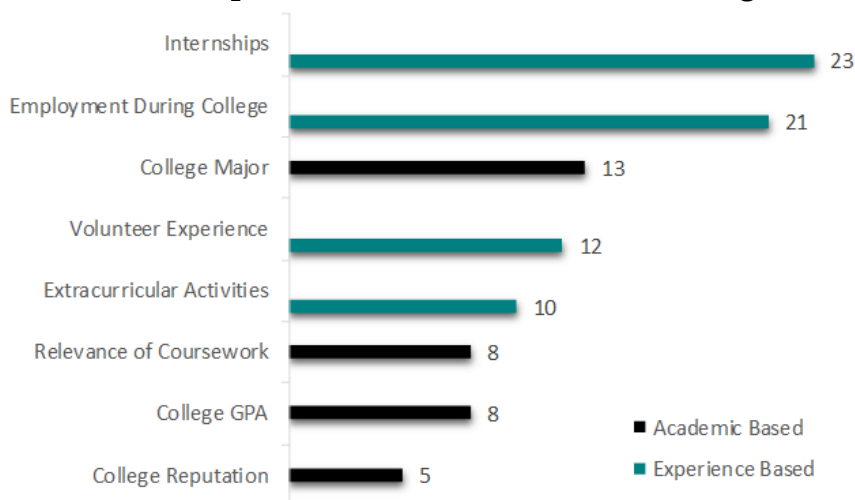
# What Employers Look For In Recent College Graduates

Every year, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) surveys employers nationwide and compiles a list of top skills and qualities employers look for when hiring recent college graduates. The **Top 20 Abilities, Skills and Qualities Recruiters Most Want in Candidates\*** are:

- |                           |                       |                               |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Teamwork skills        | 8. Computer skills    | 15. Adaptability              |
| 2. Problem-solving skills | 9. Creative skills    | 16. Interpersonal skills      |
| 3. Organizational skills  | 10. Persuasive skills | 17. Self-confidence           |
| 4. Communication skills   | 11. Leadership skills | 18. Strategic planning skills |
| 5. Processing skills      | 12. Strong work ethic | 19. Entrepreneurial spirit    |
| 6. Analytical skills      | 13. Initiative        | 20. Friendly/sense of humor   |
| 7. Technical skills       | 14. Detail-oriented   |                               |

Employers also look for important attributes (both academic-based and experience-based) when evaluating graduates for hire. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, **employers look for the following attributes in recent college graduates\*\***:

**Relative Importance of Attributes in Evaluating Graduates for Hire**



Evaluate your top qualities, skills and attributes from the information above. Identify your areas of weakness and develop a plan to improve and gain experience in these areas. **Strengthen, improve, and develop your skills, qualities and attributes through:**

- |               |                           |                    |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Internships | ✓ Clubs and Organizations | ✓ Service Learning |
| ✓ Employment  | ✓ Volunteering            | ✓ Class Projects   |
| ✓ Classes     | ✓ Athletics/Club Sports   |                    |

You can also **list some of your top skills and attributes from the information above and cite specific examples of how you have utilized each skill**. This will help prepare you in effectively communicating your strengths to potential employers.

\*Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, Job Outlook Survey 2014.

\*\*Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, December 2012.