

CAREEREALISM

— BECAUSE EVERY JOB IS TEMPORARY —



5 Skills Employers Want Their Employees To Have

August 11, 2014 by Megan Clark

Times change, and so do industries. In order to keep up with this ever-evolving world, business professionals everywhere must be flexible and versatile when it comes to their skills and knowledge. A professional must redefine himself/herself on a constant basis and he/she must always be willing to learn new things; in the end, one can never know enough! Having said that, here is a brief overview of the top skills employers want their employees to have.

1. Leadership Skills

Some people are made to lead while others are made to be led. Leadership skills play a pivotal role in this equation, and one is never too old or too young to learn these skills. It often happens that leadership skills are not taught at the workplace and you need to have them in you.

In spite of being innate, these skills can be learned, refined and enhanced so they will benefit you and your company in the long run. If you are too insecure or too timid, then perhaps you are not made to be a leader, as in the end everything lies in the right attitude and mindset. With the correct mindset, one can move mountains! It often happens that some of the world's best leaders started from the low spot and gradually worked their way to the top of the success ladder. This is what a true leader does!

2. Communication Skills

Communication skills are the building blocks of any successful project: it has happened to all of us to try and solve things independently or to be proud of something we have achieved, yet to fail to explain that to those around us. As a business professional, you certainly know how important teamwork is. There is no team without good communication skills.

Being able to describe what you want your employees or colleagues to do may sound easy at first, but it can turn out to be a very challenging task because even the slightest detail or mistake can lead to disaster. It is important to always keep in touch with the other professionals, to explain everything in a brief yet clear and comprehensive manner to them, and to make others understand that part of their professional success relies heavily on their communication skills.

At the same time, good communication skills are required to solve various internal problems with the employees, which usually occur due to the lack of communication, ironically.

3. IT Skills

We live in the technology era where most businesses rely comprehensively on computers. Nowadays, most employees and professionals are required to be computer-literate and to know at least the basics of operating a computer, as this can greatly affect their careers. However, it often happens that larger organizations require their professionals to take their IT skills a step further and to have Adobe Photoshop skills and graphic design skills. Photoshop comes in handy, especially for marketing campaigns, and one of the main benefits of the photo editing program is that there are countless Adobe Photoshop trial versions on the Internet.

At the same time, a professional must possess at least some basic graphic design skills because this can help both him/her and the company save some time, money and trouble. Every large company has an IT department, but business professionals who respect themselves should try and learn a bit from every department in their company!

4. Business Skills

While some people argue that business skills and that “eye for money” are native and one cannot achieve them through training, others say that business skills can be easily taught in the long run. The notion of “business skills” is a complex one, as it encompasses a series of qualities: a successful business person must be a visionary, he/she must always be honest and he must seize every opportunity he gets. Moreover, he/she must have the ability to delegate, be committed and have a positive mindset. Other important business skills include cross-cultural competency and knowledge, analytical skills and entrepreneurship skills.

5. Negotiation Skills

Last but not least, a business professional must also possess good negotiation skills, as this skill is very important in order for them to reach agreements with their business partners without encountering any communication barriers in the future. The negotiation process involves several steps: the preparation part, the goal setting, the mutually beneficial negotiation and the final agreement followed by the plan of action. A successful business professional must know when to stop insisting and when to make compromises, after all, the art of negotiating involves reaching a win-win agreement.

Megan Clark is an IT Engineer who has been specialized into IT Security Systems. She is currently working as a freelance researcher trying to connect business and career topics with fast-growing IT market.