

What the Data Say About Student Readiness for Academics, Work & Life

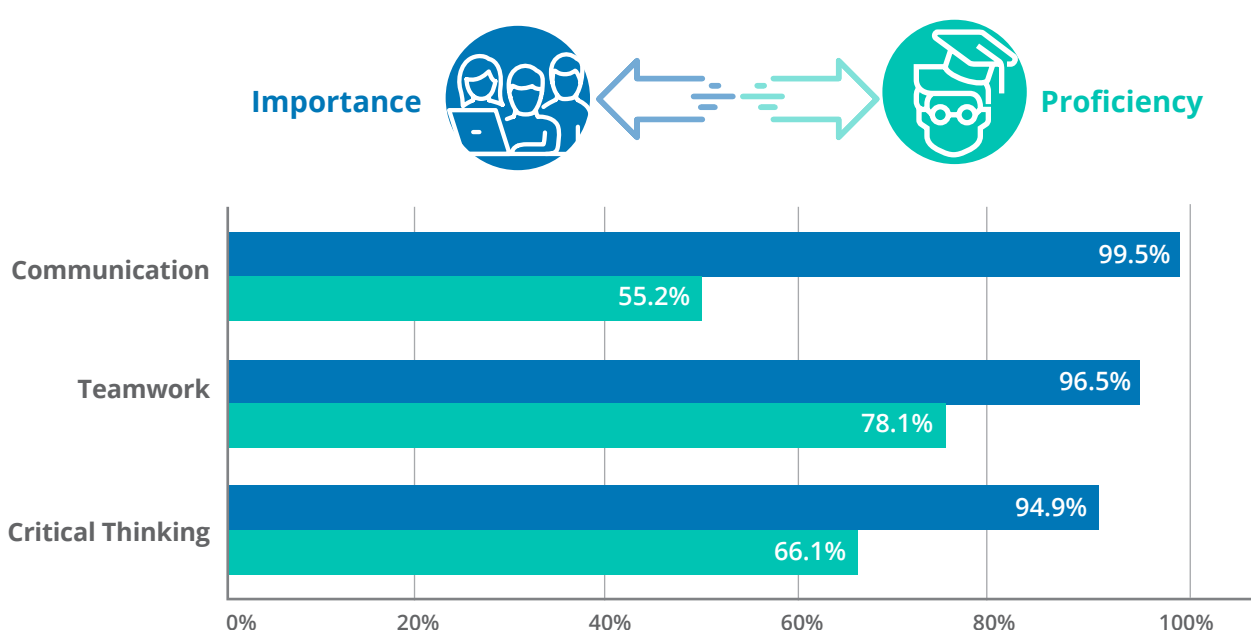
Top Career Readiness Competencies¹



Ranked by Employers

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork

Career Readiness Skills Importance to Employers Vs. New Grad Proficiency¹

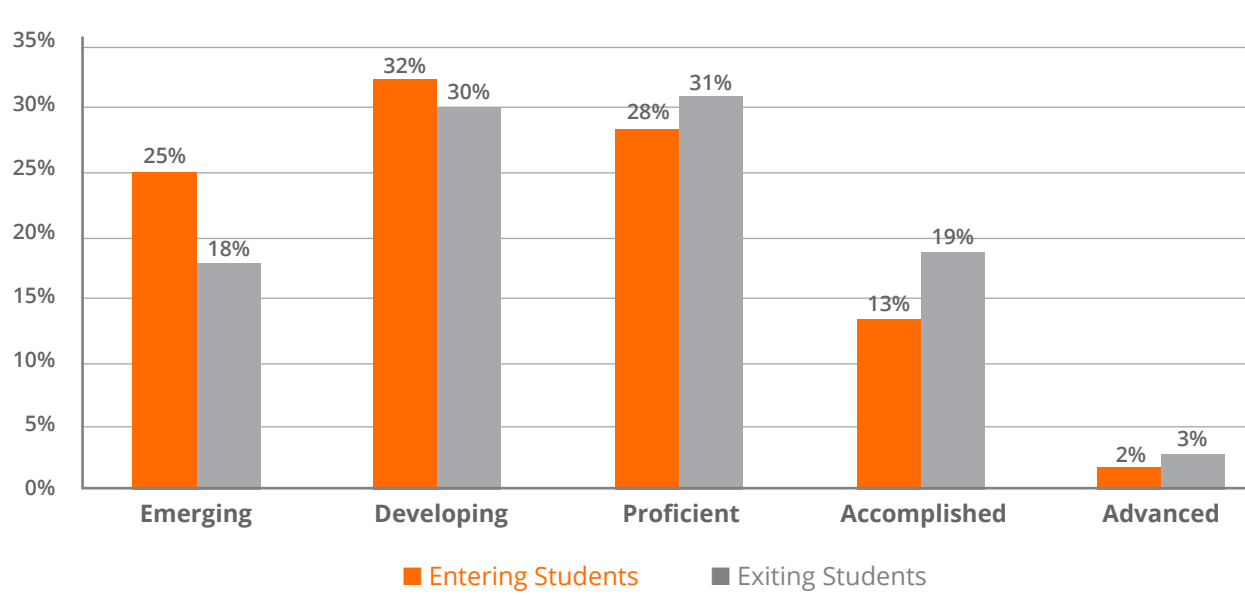


Critical Thinking CAN Be Taught... But Most K-12 & Higher Education Students Aren't Receiving Direct Instruction

Only **43%** of high school graduates entering college are proficient in critical thinking.⁴

And only **53%** of college graduates are proficient in critical thinking.⁴

Student Mastery in Critical Thinking



36 states have a definition for college and career readiness. Most emphasize college readiness and briefly mention career or workforce readiness. *Many of these definitions are outdated or lack clarity.*²

Yet, only **1 in 5** high school graduates in 2023 felt fully prepared for college.³

95% of Americans believe that critical thinking skills are important.⁵

Yet **85%** think critical thinking skills are lacking in the general public.⁵



Prepare Students Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow — Measure and Teach Higher-Order Skills



Studies and surveys reveal time and again that students need instruction and practice to build the higher-order skills essential to their success in school and the workplace.

Critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication are consistently ranked by employers as the most important skills, across fields.

Using CAE's Higher-Order Skills Solution, which includes performance-based assessments and critical thinking instructional materials, K-12 school districts and higher education institutions can support the development of the skills students will need for their next steps — whether that's continued education, the military, or the workforce.

[Learn More](#)

References

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