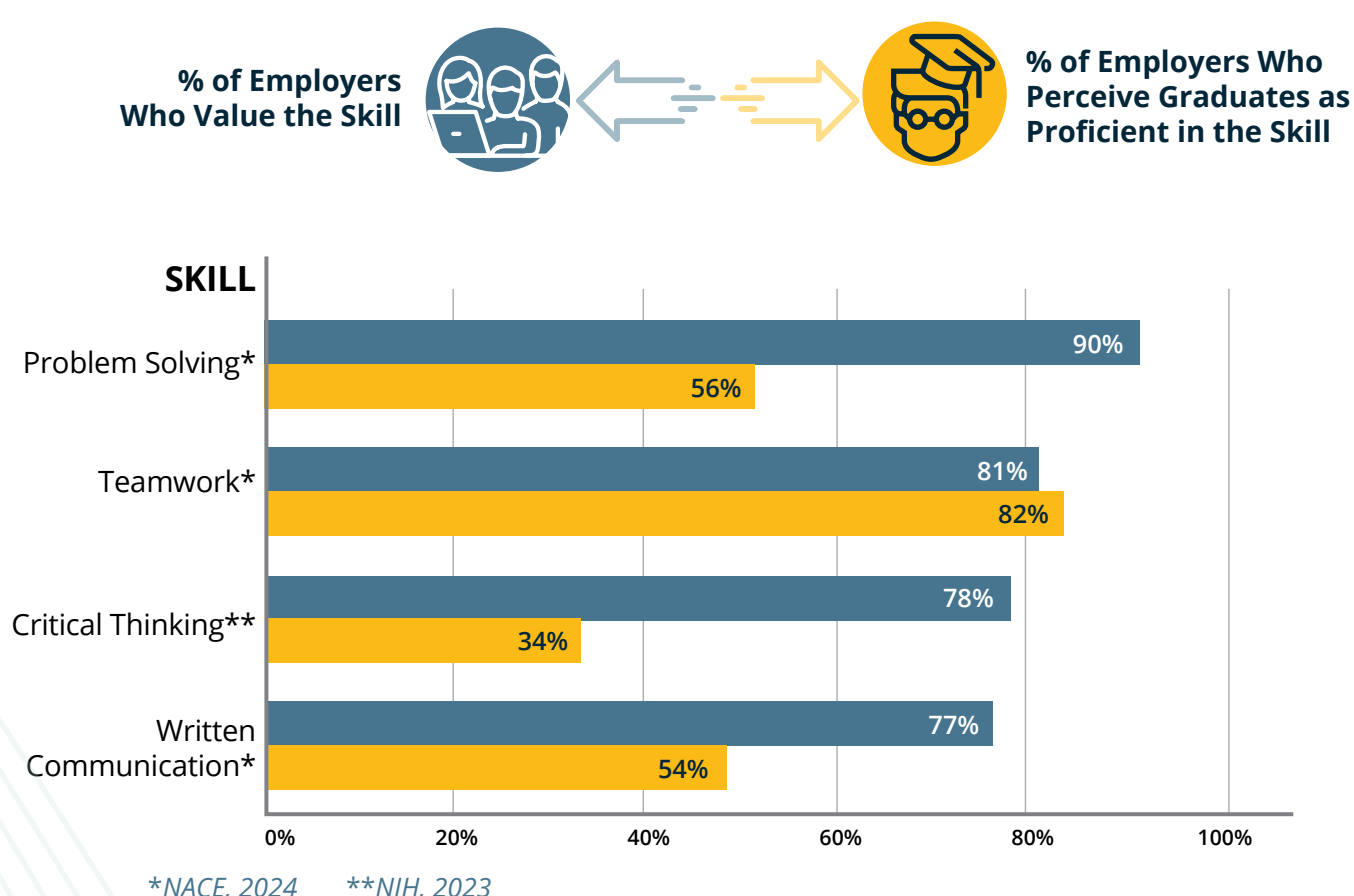




Empower Students with the Higher-Order Skills Needed for College, Careers, and Life

Are Students Really Future-Ready? Employers Say There's a Gap



The disconnect is clear: students aren't graduating with the skills employers need and expect.

Skills-based hiring jumped from 56% in 2022 to 73% in 2023 ([Society for Human Resource Management, 2023](#)).

Higher-Order Skills Are Relevant in Every Industry

Every industry values higher-order skills. In fact, 70% of employers now **prioritize real-world skills** over degrees ([AAC&U, 2023](#)).

BUSINESS:

Strategic problem solving, effective communication, and decision making



HEALTHCARE:

Critical thinking, ethical decision making, and patient communication

ENGINEERING:

Analytical thinking, innovative problem solving, and technical communication



HUMANITIES:

Critical analysis, creative problem solving, and cross-cultural communication



MILITARY:

Tactical problem solving, clear communication, and leadership under pressure



SKILLED TRADES

(e.g., Electricians, Plumbers): Troubleshooting, critical thinking, and customer communication

To prepare all students for college and/or the workforce, K-12 education must *intentionally* teach these essential skills.

Only **43%** of high school graduates entering college are proficient in critical thinking ([Van Damme & Zahner, OECD, 2022](#)).

How to teach Students Essential Skills for Lifelong Success

To thrive in school and the workplace, students need more than content knowledge—they need to think critically, solve problems, and communicate effectively. **These skills can be taught through intentional teaching and meaningful practice.**

CAE's higher-order skills solution helps schools prepare students for future success by building the skills colleges and employers actively seek through:

- **Engaging critical thinking instructional resources** that strengthen higher-order skills across subject areas
- **Performance-based assessments** that measure critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication—providing data educators can act on
- **Professional development** that equips educators to teach these skills with confidence

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