

Soft and Hard Skills & Career Competencies



What are Soft Skills?

Soft skills are a combination of people skills, social skills, communication skills, character or personality traits, attitudes, career attributes, social intelligence, and emotional intelligence quotients, among others, that enable people to navigate their environment, work well with others, perform well, and achieve their goals with complementing technical skills. Soft skills can also be referred to as “core competencies” or “core skills.” Personal attributes that enable someone to interact effectively and harmoniously with other people.

Soft skills are broadly applicable across job titles and industries.

What are Hard Skills?

Hard skills describe a person’s technical skill set and ability to perform specific tasks. It involves both understanding and proficiency in such specific activity that involves methods, processes, procedures, or techniques.

The key differences between hard and soft skills are how they are gained and put to use in the workplace. Hard skills are often gained through education or specific training. They include competencies like how to use a certain machine, software, or another tool. Soft skills are more often seen as personality traits you may have spent your whole life developing.

Source: Quinncia

LinkedIn

Find new jobs with the skills you already have. LinkedIn’s data uncovers career paths by matching your skills to thousands of job titles

Career Competencies

The National Association of Colleges and Employers has identified 8 Career Competencies that define career readiness:

- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Oral/Written Communications
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Digital Technology
- Leadership
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Career & Self-Development
- Equity & Inclusion