




Articulate Skills Gained for Post-Program Success

Unfamiliar Credentials Especially Require Student to Communicate Value to Employer


Adult learners must leave programs able to articulate and demonstrate the skills gained, especially if students completed non-degree credentials since most employers don't understand what alternative credentials convey. Even degree program graduates benefit from ability to articulate and demonstrate the skills gained, however, when on the job market.

Programs often achieve practical skill development with experiential learning opportunities. Programs can also explicitly teach students how to refer to curriculum and skills developed on resumes.

Activities with Tangible Results Demonstrate Skill Development

Program	Experiential Learning Activity	Skill Demonstration
 Certificate in Event Planning	Plan a gala in a 2-week capstone, including vendor selection and crisis response plans	Portfolio
 Course on the Internet of Things	Build a connected device and the app that controls it	App
 MS in Computing and Analytics	Students analyze a company's data to propose actionable solutions to a business problem during a hackathon	Solution proposal presentation

Teach Students Skills-Oriented Vocabulary via the Syllabus

<p><i>Sample Syllabus – English 111</i></p>		
Presentation – 30% <i>Students will form groups and present on a course topic.</i>	Competencies Developed by Deans, Faculty, and Administrators	
Portfolio – 30% <i>Students keep a journal to record reading, reflections, and experiences.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Working within the dynamic of a group <input type="checkbox"/> Research skills <input type="checkbox"/> Oral presentation skills <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership skills <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to work within a time frame <input type="checkbox"/> Critical thinking skills	
Class Participation – 10% <i>Students are expected to attend, be prepared, and actively participate.</i>		
Final Exam – 25% <i>Written exam taken in class at the end of the semester.</i>		

Memorial U found that employers were more likely to interview students who discuss coursework in terms of *competencies* than subject matter or academic field.

