

TIPS FOR DEVELOPING SKILLS *employers want*

The skills included in this list were derived from the AgCareers.com Intern and New Grad Hiring & Compensation Report. This report was designed to gather the thoughts of employers on what they are looking for during the hiring process.

teamwork



Agriculture employers value teamwork to ensure positive company culture and the ability to build off of other ideas. To build your teamworking skills, try taking group projects seriously while in class, along with getting involved with clubs on campus. This will give you experience working with others in different settings.

communication



There are opportunities to practice communication skills every day. Challenge yourself to make steady eye contact with those you encounter, along with speaking clearly in your conversations. You can even sign up for mock interviews at your school's Career Services office to practice communicating during an interview and get feedback on your communication style.

problem-solving & decision-making



With the guarantee you will face discrepancies in the workplace, start practicing your problem-solving and decision-making skills now. Engage in difficult tasks. Play strategic games such as Chess or Sudoku. If that's not for you, simply give extra thought to any problems you face in your day-to-day life. Try to patiently work through them without excess frustration or giving up too easily.

organization



Employers want to know you can keep various projects organized and completed on time. You can easily practice your organization skills while keeping track of the different classes you are enrolled in. Use a whiteboard, your phone, or sticky notes to remind yourself of important due dates. Organize your laptop into different folders, as well as keeping physical papers in separate, safe locations.

computer skills



With the focus on technology, being able to demonstrate competent computer skills is more important than ever. If you have some free time in your schedule, pick up a computer applications course to learn more about various applications. You can also find informational videos online to better understand popular programs such as Excel.