

School of the Arts Career Readiness Skills

Employers look for the skills listed below when hiring new graduates. Use the descriptions as a reference to select which skills you feel you have developed. Meet with your academic advisor and faculty mentor to discuss which classes to take and other opportunities to strengthen areas where you are missing or need more experience.

Adaptability:

Develop the ability to adjust one's behavior, mindset, and approach in response to changing circumstances while maintaining productivity and effectiveness.

- Revise creative work when feedback, deadlines, or project direction changes.
- Learn new tools, techniques, or software used in artistic work.
- Stay calm and productive when performances, rehearsals, or exhibitions change.

Career & Self-Development:

Advance your career through continuous learning, self-awareness, exploring opportunities, and networking.

- Explore careers in performance, design, production, teaching, or arts administration.
- Identify strengths in creativity, expression, collaboration, or technical skill.
- Use critiques, performances, and internships to refine career goals.

Communication:

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts, and perspectives with people inside and outside an organization.

- Present artistic ideas clearly during critiques, auditions, or meetings.
- Listen actively and respond thoughtfully to feedback.
- Adjust communication for different audiences, such as peers, clients, or the public.

Critical Thinking:

Identify and respond to needs based on an understanding of situational context and a logical analysis of relevant information.

- Evaluate multiple artistic approaches before choosing one.
- Use critique, research, and audience response to guide decisions.
- Revise creative work based on evidence and feedback.

Leadership:

Recognize and use personal and team strengths to achieve shared goals and support positive outcomes.

- Take initiative to organize rehearsals, shows, or creative projects.
- Motivate others by being prepared, positive, and dependable.
- Help the group reach goals by encouraging collaboration and accountability.

Professionalism:

Exhibit strong work habits, adapt to different organizational environments, and act in the best interest of the workplace and community.

- Meet deadlines and come prepared for rehearsals, critiques, and projects.
- Show respect and integrity in artistic and professional settings.
- Adapt to the expectations of different creative environments.

Teamwork:

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.

- Contribute reliably to group performances, productions, or projects.
- Respect different artistic viewpoints and work toward shared goals.
- Address disagreements constructively to keep the work moving forward.

Technology:

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

- Use digital tools to create, edit, and present artistic work.
- Evaluate online resources for accuracy and usefulness.
- Use technology responsibly when sharing or collaborating on creative projects.