

The Learning That Matters in Today's Economy and for Our Global Future

LEAP Centennial Symposium

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Los Angeles, CA

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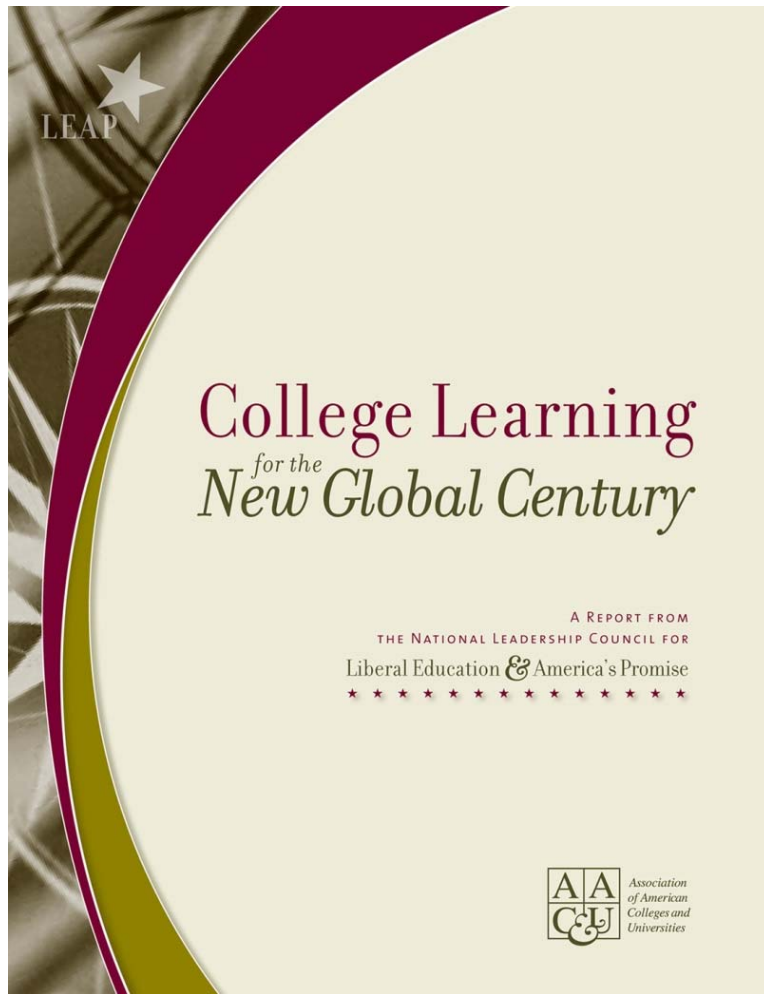
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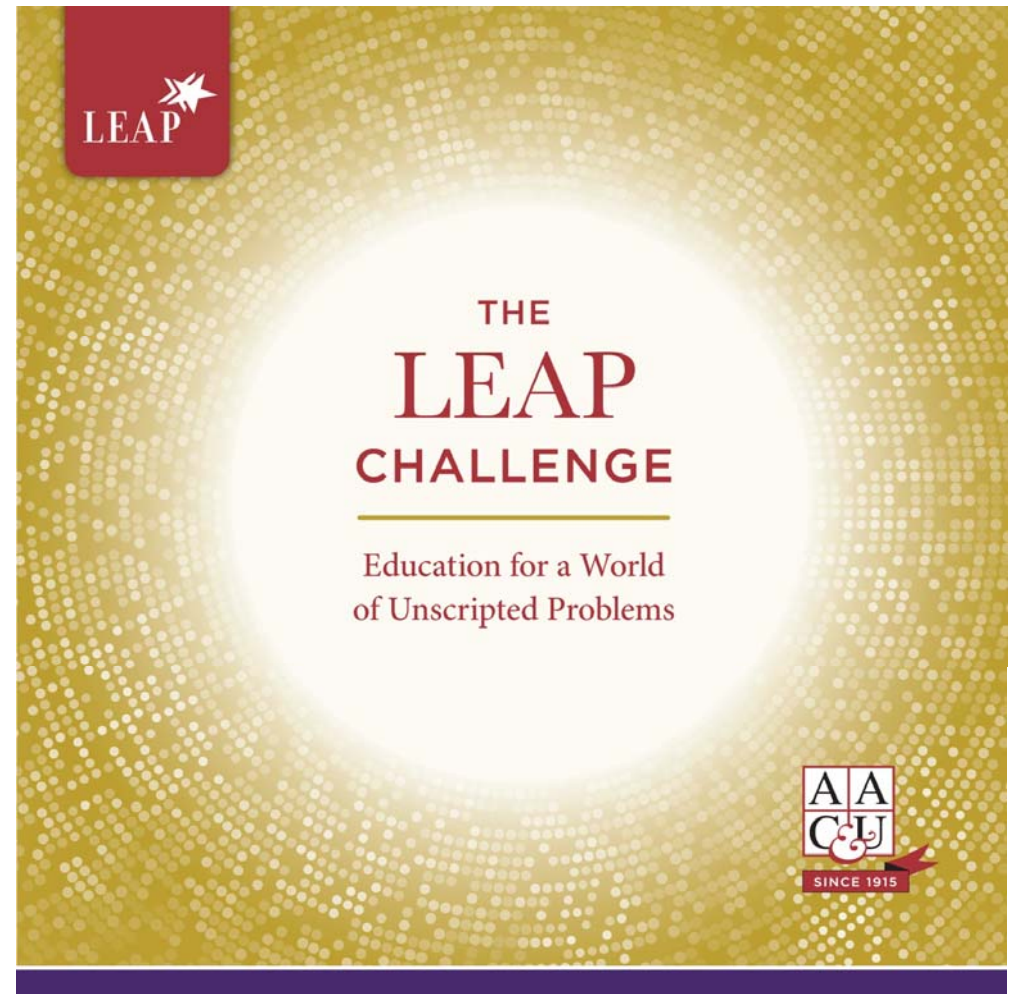
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LEAP Initiative Reports and Recommendations



Released 2007



Released 2015

College Learning for the New Global Century (2007)

“The world in which today’s students will make choices and compose lives is one of disruption rather than certainty, and of interdependence rather than insularity.”

LEAP Asks:

- How do we educate students for success in this kind of world?

LEAP Definition of Liberal Education

An approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with **complexity, diversity and change**. It emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility as well as strong intellectual and practical skills that span all areas of study, such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and includes **a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.**

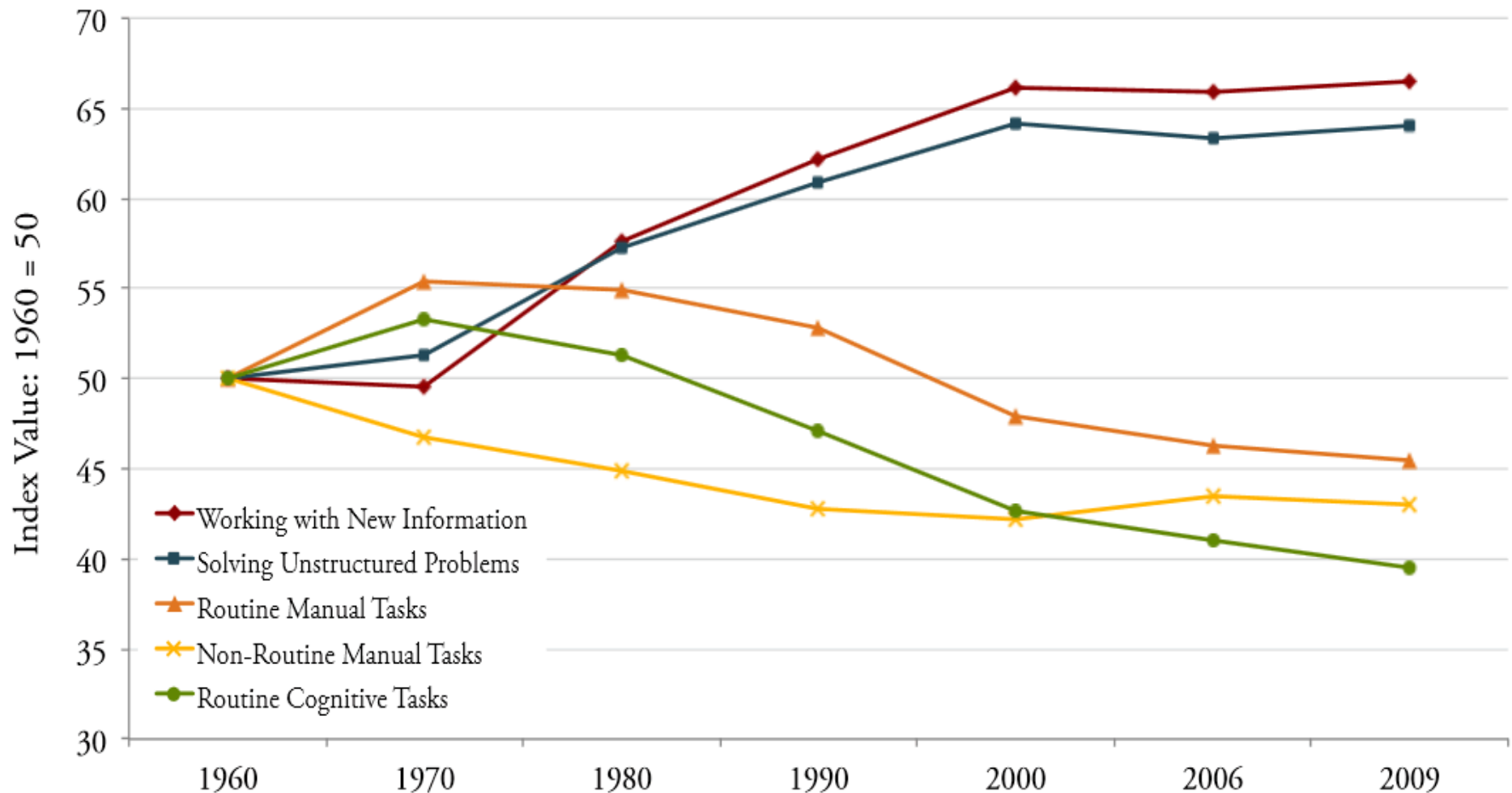
The Big Economic Picture

“Human work will increasingly shift toward two kinds of tasks: solving problems for which standard operating procedures do not currently exist, and working with new information—acquiring it, making sense of it, communicating it to others....today, work that consists of following clearly specified directions is increasingly being carried out by computers and workers in lower-wage countries. The remaining jobs that pay enough to support families require a **deeper level of knowledge and the skills to apply it.**”

“Frank Levy and Richard Murnane, *“Dancing with Robots”* (2013)

Dancing With Robots (2013)

Figure 3: Index of Changing Work Tasks in the U.S. Economy 1960-2009



AAC&U Commissioned Surveys and Focus Groups of Employers, Students (2006-2015)

Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success (released January 2015)

Key findings from survey among 400 employers and 613 college students
conducted in November and December 2014

For

AAC&U by Hart Research Associates

<http://www.aacu.org/leap/public-opinion-research>



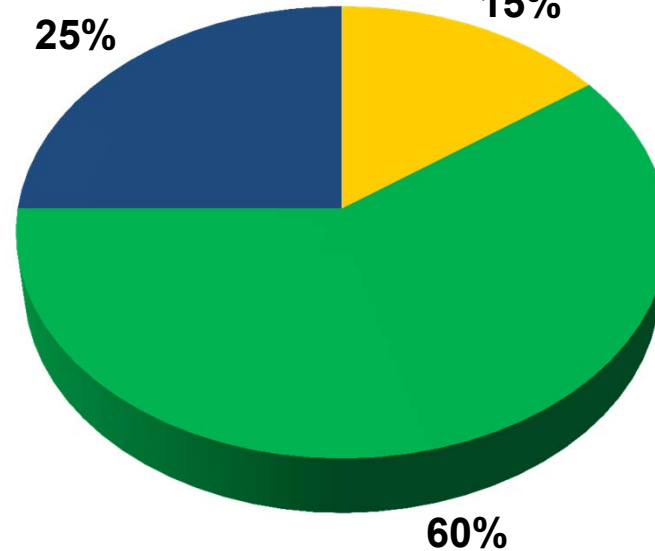
Three in five employers believe that it takes BOTH specific knowledge/skills and broad knowledge/skills to achieve long-term career success.

Which is more important for recent college graduates to have who want to pursue advancement and long-term career success at your company?

(employers)

Range of knowledge and skills that apply to a range of fields or positions

Knowledge and skills that apply to a specific field or position



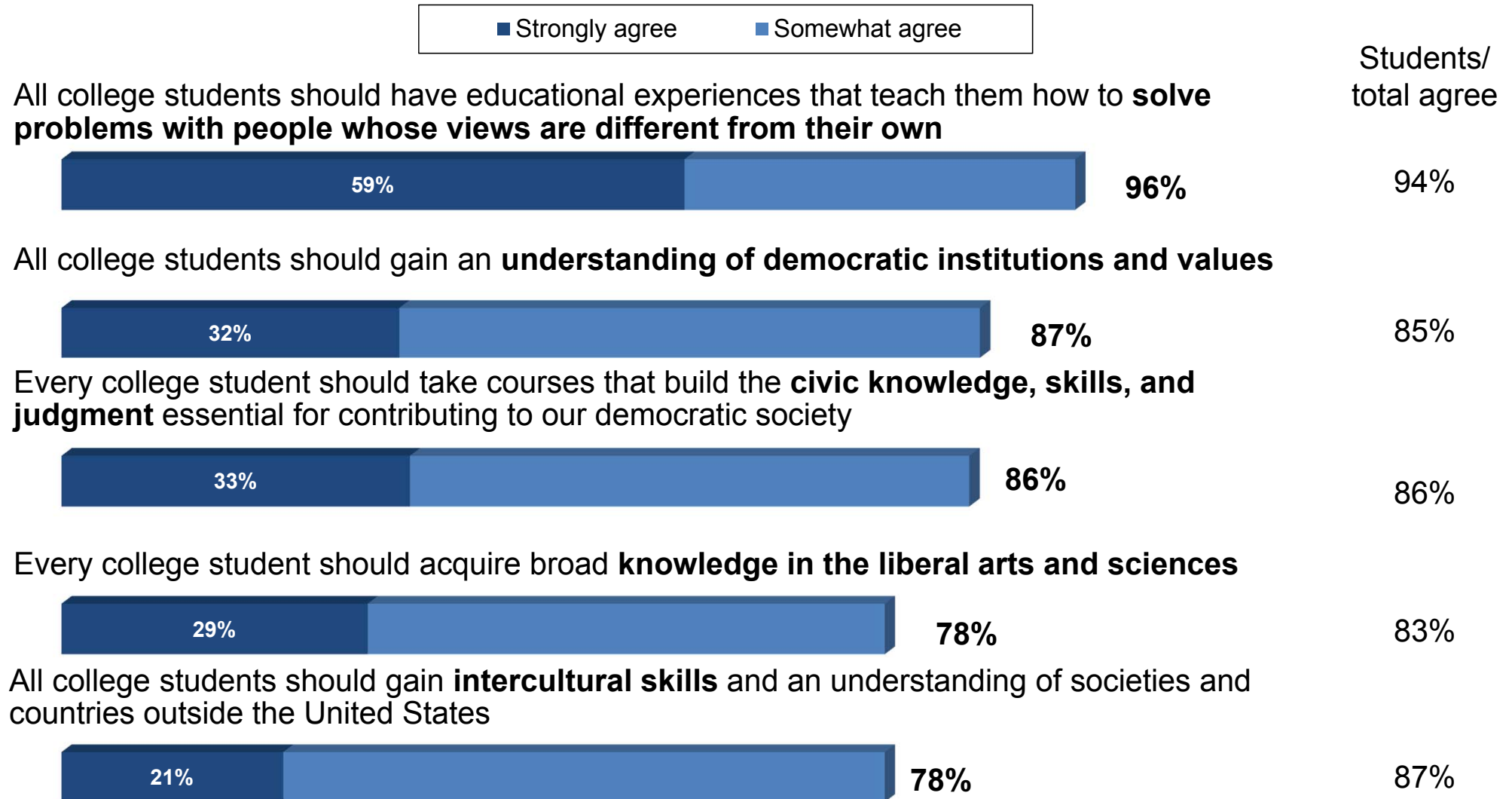
Both field-specific and broad range of knowledge and skills

College students:

Specific	15%
Both	63%
Broad range	22%

Employers are in broad agreement on college learning outcomes for all students, regardless of their chosen field of study.⁹

Employers' agreement with statements about college learning aims regardless of student's chosen field of study



Learning Outcomes that at Least Four in Five Employers Rate as Very Important

*Proportions of employers rating each skill/knowledge area as very important for recent college graduates to have**

Students:
very important
for success
in workplace*



*8, 9, 10 ratings on zero-to-10 scale, 10 = very important

High-Impact Educational Practices

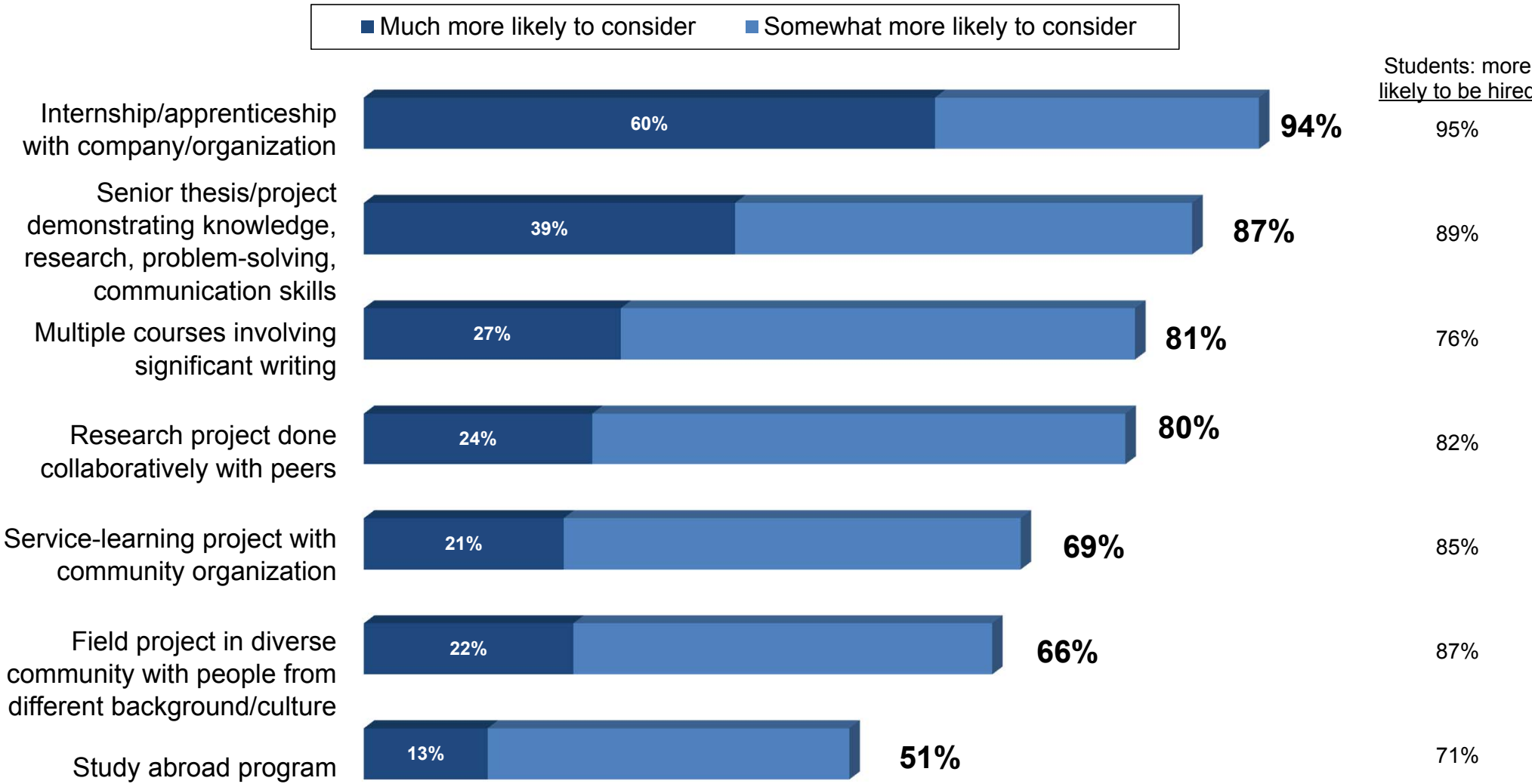
- ★ **First-Year Seminars and Experiences**
- ★ **Common Intellectual Experiences**
- ★ **Learning Communities**
- ★ **Writing-Intensive Courses**
- ★ **Collaborative Assignments and Projects**
- ★ **Undergraduate Research**
- ★ **Diversity/Global Learning**
- ★ **Service Learning, Community-Based Learning**
- ★ **Internships**
- ★ **Capstone Courses and Projects**

Employers perceive great value in students' completing applied learning projects, but see room to improve college students' preparedness to complete applied learning projects.

- 88% think that it is important for colleges to ensure that ALL students are prepared with the skills/knowledge needed to complete a significant applied learning project.
 - ➔ BUT just 14% of employers think that most college students are prepared with the skills/knowledge needed to complete a significant applied learning project.
- 80% say that it is very important for recent graduates to demonstrate the ability to apply learning in real-world settings.
 - ➔ BUT only 23% of employers think that recent college graduates are very well prepared to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.
- 60% believe that ALL college students should be expected to complete a significant applied learning project before graduating.

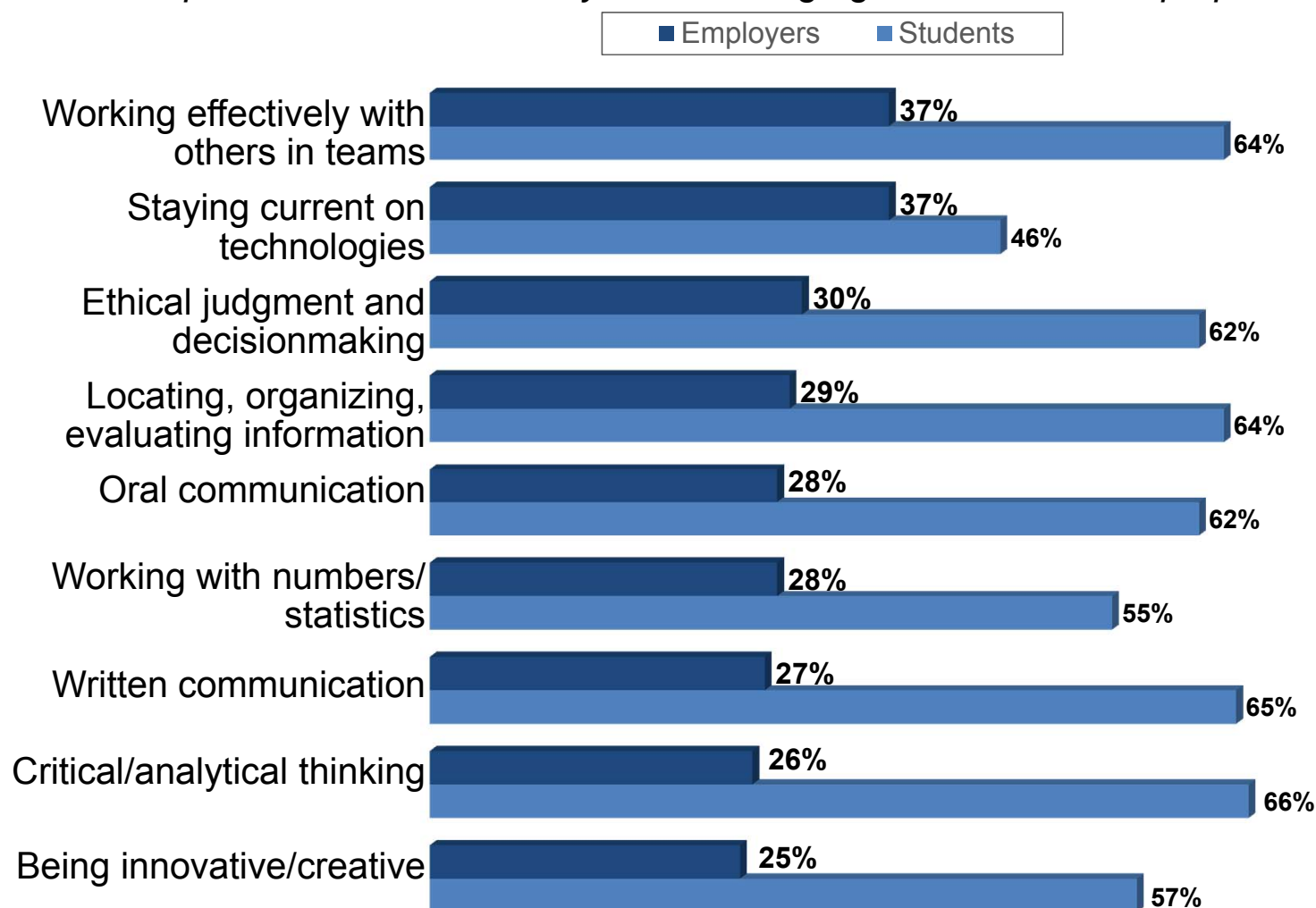
Employers say they are more likely to consider hiring recent college graduates who have completed an applied learning or project-based learning experience.¹³

How much more likely is your company to consider hiring recent college graduates if they have had this experience?



Employers give college graduates lower scores for preparedness across learning outcomes than current students give themselves.

*Proportions who believe they/recent college graduates are well prepared in each area**



*8-10 ratings on zero-to-ten scale

What Students and Our Society Need and Deserve

“In a world of relentless change, all students need the kind of education that leads them to ask not just ‘how do we get this done?’ but also ‘what is most worth doing?’”

College Learning for the New Global Century, 2007