

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
2020-2021



The General Education Program prepares students for informed citizenship, leading to responsible participation in local, national, and global communities.

FOUNDATIONS [100-200 LEVEL]

...the major areas of human thought and endeavor. These courses present the academic disciplines as different ways of looking at the world, introduce you to the varied methods used to create knowledge, and acquaint you with major questions and principles of the field.

- *Arts*
- *Historical Perspectives*
- *Mathematical Sciences*
- *Physical Sciences*
- *Life Sciences*
- *Philosophy and Literature*
- *Social and Behavioral Sciences (2 courses from 2 different prefixes)*
- *Writing*

Faculty must teach 2-3 Knowledge and 2 Skills outcomes

CULTURES [100-400 level]

...recognize yourself as a cultural being, and to understand the diverse ways in which people organize life and perceive the world. It enhances your ability to live and work intelligently, responsibly, and cooperatively in a multicultural nation and an interdependent world.

- *Global Perspectives*
- *U.S. Diversity*

Faculty must teach 2 Knowledge and 2 Skills outcomes

ISSUES [300-400 level]

...integrate learning and co-curricular experiences to build connections between prior understanding and new learning. Issues courses are problem-solving courses that encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration within each class. They also develop your understanding of some of the most compelling issues of our time: globalization, health, human rights, identity, sustainability, and the connected topics of information, innovation, or technology.

- *2 Issues courses*

Faculty must teach 1 Knowledge and 3 Skills outcomes

Issues are the unique aspect of our GE Program – the point is teaching the skills of collaboration, problem solving and integration – at the upper division level

Double-dipping

- Courses can double-dip – be in 2 GE categories
 - Foundations + Cultures
 - Issues + Cultures
- Courses **cannot**
 - Be in 2 GE Foundations
 - Double-dip between Foundations and Issues



You are responsible to TEACH and ASSESS Knowledge and Skills outcomes in BOTH categories if the course is in 2 categories.

1. Read the category description for your course (see the GE Handbook at www.gvsu.edu/gened)

EXAMPLE-Foundations - Philosophy and Literature

- Literary and philosophical works represent an ongoing conversation about the fundamental ideas and values that shape cultures and civilization. To participate fully in this conversation requires knowledge, both of those works that are recognized as defining the history of the conversation and of works that offer original or critical additions to it in the present. Through the study of great works of philosophy and literature, you will come to understand more clearly your own response to the world and to the ideas that give it form and comprehensibility.
- Courses in this category introduce you to the interpretation of a significant body of literary or philosophical work and assist you in the careful reading, discussion, and analysis of primary texts.

2. Determine how you will teach the Knowledge student learning outcomes

Example from Philosophy and Literature (see your syllabus attachments)

- Explain principles and questions that define philosophy or literature and its contributions to human knowledge and civilization.
- Explain the relationship between the works discussed, the cultures in which they were created, and the human concerns they illuminate.
- Analyze and interpret one or more primary texts as a major portion of course content.

You have to teach ALL of the Knowledge outcomes

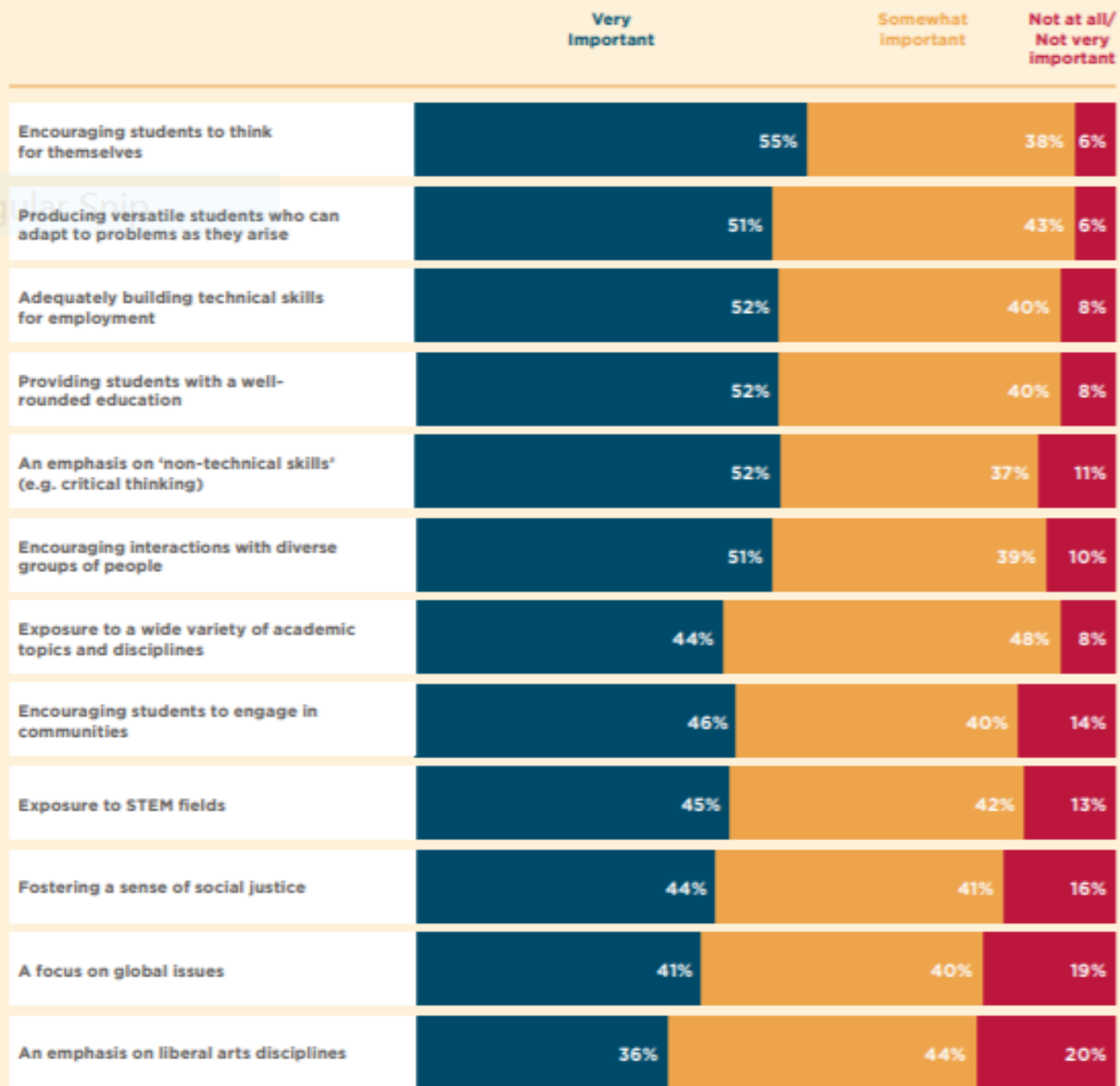
3. Determine how you will teach the Skills student learning outcomes for your course

- Read the definition of the Skill and the objectives associated with it.
 - You have to teach ALL of the objectives.
- All of the Skills must be taught and assessed regardless of how the course modality (online, hybrid, face to face).

Help students see that employers value the skills and knowledge learning in General Education Courses.

What employers want, how we're doing, and who is doing it....

Employers favor attributes of a college education that combine **breadth** and **depth** of learning.



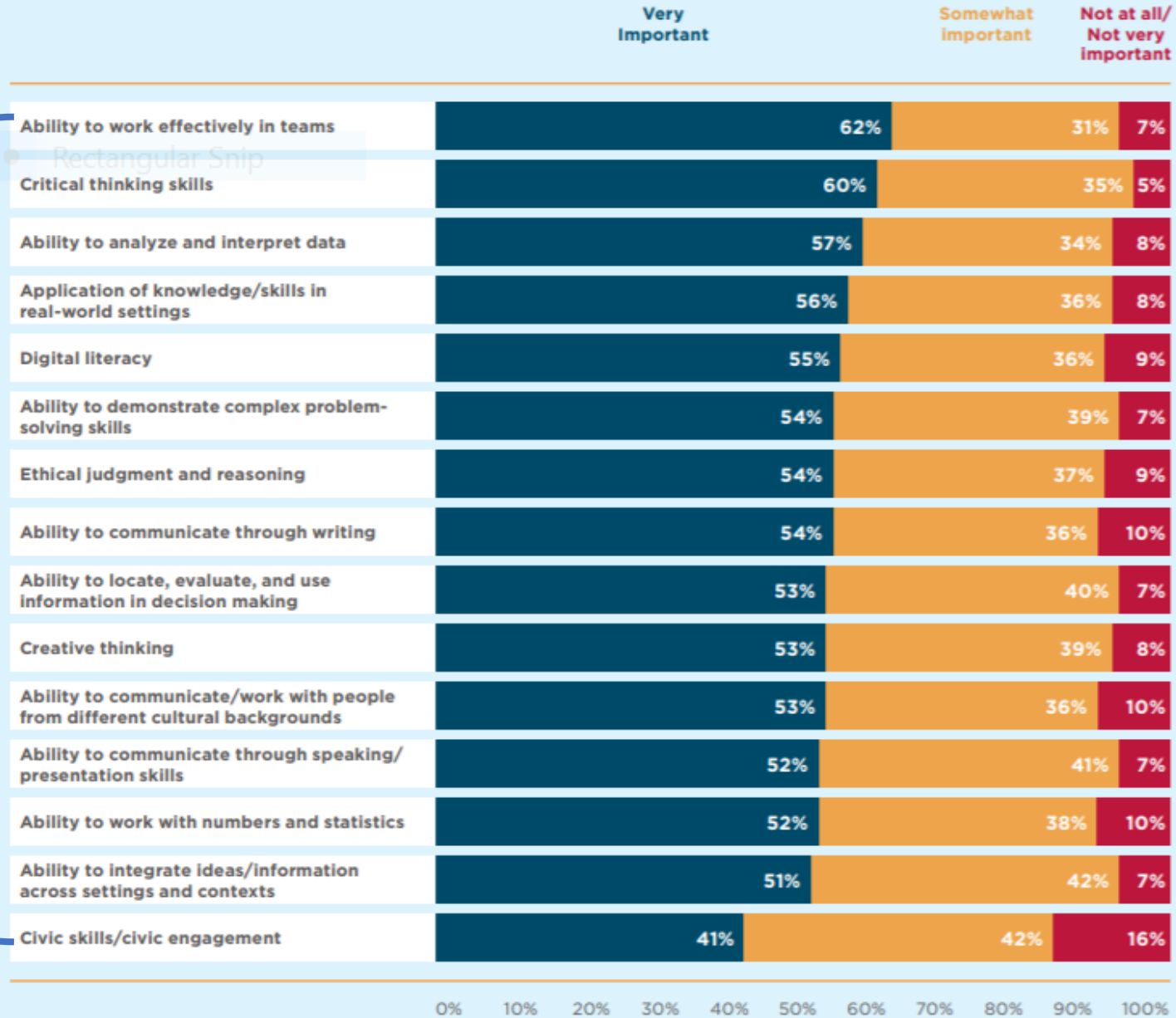
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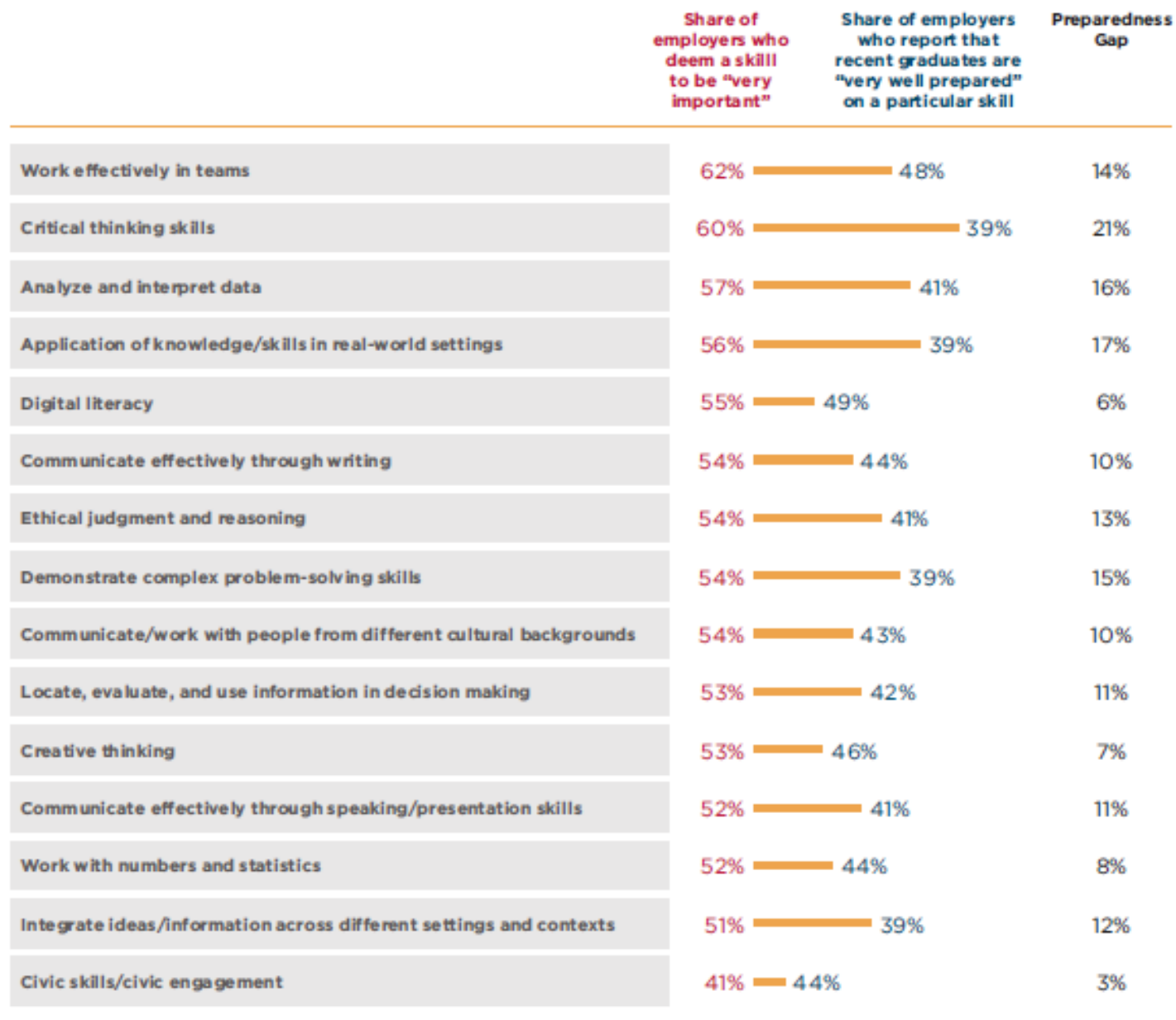
Source: How College Contributes to Workforce Success: Employer Views on What Matters Most, AAC&U, 2021

At least half of employers view the skills of a liberal education as “very important” for college graduates.



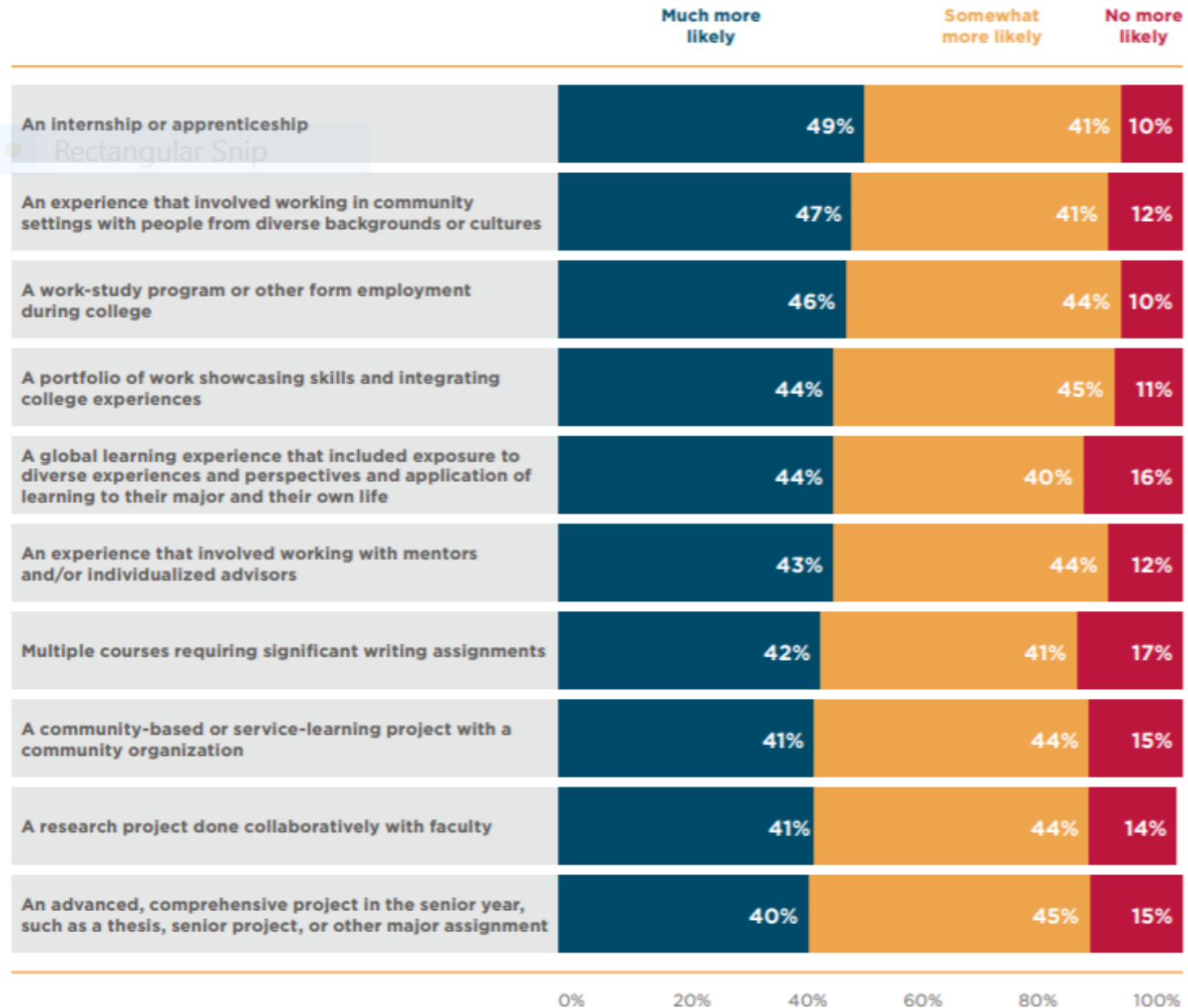
GE (and University)
Student
Learning
Outcomes

Employers do not believe most graduates possess the level of preparedness needed for workforce success.



Employers value applied experiences, but internships lead the list of what makes employers “much more likely to consider” hiring a candidate.

The important things that the Majors provide...



SWS (and the major) →