FIGURE 11

Percentages of employers indicating a skill is "very important" in identifying strong job candidates⁹

	• 2023 Emp	loyers		• 2018 Employers							
Oral communication									81% 85'	%	
Adaptability and flexibility									81%		
Working e ectively in teams									80% 83%		
Critical thinking									79% 81%		
Motivation and initiative									79% 80%		
Written communication									7% 7%		
Working with people from di erent backgrounds							e	77 59%	7%		
Creative and innovative thinking							64%	76	%		
Complex problem-solving								74% 70%			
Utilizing technology and digital media platforms							66	73% %			
Exercise ethical judgment and reason	ing							73%	82%		
Analyzing and interpreting data						54%		73%			
Locating and evaluating information variety of sources	from a							70% 76	%		
Integrating and applying ideas across di erent settings and contexts	5							59%	82%		
	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%

FIGURE 15

Percentages of employers who indicated they would be "much more" likely to consider a job candidate with particular experiences



Source: AAC&U 2023 Employer Report

The survey was developed by AAC&U and administered online by Morning Consult to a sample of 1,010 employers. Employers were defined as individuals working full-time who hold a job title of manager or higher and who have been involved in hiring activities over the past eighteen months. To qualify for the study, employers had to have a level of education of at least an associate's degree and needed to work for an organization that employs at least 25 people.

FIGURE 20

Top three skills that employers would like colleges and universities to place more emphasis on to improve college students' preparedness



Rock Studies (45 credits)

Component Overview





The Rock (15 Credits)

Provides the foundation of what students will begin to develop through the Rock Studies program. They will gain skills that will assist them in being successful in their major classes, such as properly citing resources, creating/using basic word files, Excel, etc. Public speaking is another great example here.

Integrated Inquiry

(15 Credits)

These courses are designed to provide a general overview of the various fields - creative and aesthetic, the humanities, natural sciences, physical sciences, and social sciences. These courses are to be general in nature and provide a wide look at the disciplines within these fields.

Thematic Threads

(12 Credits)

Thematic Threads are where students can use the skills learned through The Rock, Integrated Inquiry, and their major classes to look for common threads and themes throughout a clustering of courses – demonstrating synthesis and critical thinking skills.

Questions? Contact:

Heather Rice or Jessica Jordan heather.rice@sru.edu jessica.jordan@sru.edu