SOCI1010: Introduction to the 10 Skills

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☰ WHAT'S COVERED

In this lesson, you will be introduced to the 10 essential employability skills and explore the specific skills you will be learning more about in this course. Specifically, this lesson will cover:

1. Introduction to the 10 Skills
2. Skills in This Course
3. Skills in Unit 1

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1. Introduction to the 10 Skills

The jobs of today look very different from the jobs our parents had. Whether you work in a cubicle or on a construction site, technology has changed—and is continuing to change—the ways we connect, communicate, and create in our careers. In the past, a college degree was enough to set you up for professional success. Today, employers want job candidates who also have the right skills to succeed.

That's why we've partnered with top employers, business leaders, and recruiters to identify 10 skills that are critical to performing your best—not just in one field, but across all industries. These are skills that will prepare you for the needs of any future employer and set you up for success in a world that is constantly evolving.

Skill	Description	Why It Matters for the Future of Work
Self & Social Awareness	Understanding your personal strengths and limitations; recognizing your thoughts, emotions, and intentions; being open to receiving feedback; and identifying how your behaviors impact others.	Self awareness can help you find the right career for you, know when it's time to leave your current job, and make you a stronger leader. (Swerdlow, 5).
Technology	Being able to confidently and effectively use technology to be productive, complete	78% of today's jobs require familiarity with technology, and digitally intensive jobs are

	goals and tasks, and maintain a competitive advantage.	growing faster and pay more than non-digital roles. (Southern New Hampshire University, 6).
Productivity	Strategizing, organizing, and effectively managing your time and priorities.	High performers can be up to 800 percent more productive than other workers, drastically cutting down the time and money needed to complete large tasks – something managers always value. (Keller, 7)
Initiative	Thinking independently, seeing what needs to be done, and taking action without being prompted.	Initiative has become more important in modern workplaces, as employers rely on people who have the courage to push their teams forward. (Mind Tools, 8)
Results Driven	Acting with a sense of urgency and focus to reach goals, without compromising integrity or quality.	As companies use more freelancers, they need those works to be results-driven so projects stay on track. (Do, 9).
Communication	Actively seeking and delivering information, clearly articulating ideas, effectively listening, and confidently connecting to various audiences, settings, and situations.	Communication is one of the top five skills that will be important in the future across all industries...and that employers currently find lacking. (Gilchrist, 10).
Relationship Building	Effectively working with others and establishing, cultivating, and leveraging networks over time.	85% of all open job positions are filled through personal connections. (Adler, 11)
Problem Solving	Identifying and framing problems, exploring ideas, and creating effective, ethical, and evidence-based solutions.	Problem solving is important in every industry, and this skill gives an especially notable edge in management positions. (CareerBuilder, 12).
Innovation	Creatively thinking and coming up with new ideas and solutions to solve old problems.	84% of business executives believe that innovation is important, but only 6% are satisfied with their company's performance in that area. (McKinsey & Company, 13)
Agility	Embracing change and effectively adapting when things around you are constantly in motion.	In one survey, 79% of executives said that the future of work will be based on specific projects instead of roles, meaning that having the agility to adapt quickly will be extremely important. (Lyons, 14)

As you work through this and other courses, consider how you can use these 10 Skills to achieve your personal, academic, and professional goals.

2. Skills in This Course

Imagine you're on a professional soccer team. You've been training all year to be the best player in your position, and your teammates have also been working hard to improve their technique. But in order to win games, all players will also need to be able to collaborate with each other.

Every decision made on the field—passing, shooting, dribbling, defending—is based not only on individual abilities but also on the positions, needs, and pressures of the players around you. Your own ability to navigate all of these perspectives, work effectively with others, and make the best decisions is the key to your team's success.

The same is true when it comes to your personal or professional life. Being an effective problem solver, being aware of your own and others' perspectives, building strong relationships, and taking initiative are absolutely essential if you want to "win" in your life and career. That's why this course is so important!

In this course, you'll practice three essential employability skills that will help you better understand yourself and the societies around you so that you can make the best decisions and interact with others effectively. They are:

- **Problem Solving Skill** to make decisions using the scientific method and by incorporating diverse and ethical perspectives.
- **Relationship Building Skill** to collaborate with others for the best results possible.
- **Self and Social Awareness Skill** to understand yourself and how you relate to the people around you, so you can work together and perform at the highest possible level.

Together, these three skills will help you apply a systematic process to understand information, make decisions, work productively with others, and maintain awareness of diverse perspectives so you can achieve your career and life goals.

📄 **TERMS TO KNOW**

Problem Solving Skill
Identifying and framing problems, exploring ideas, and creating effective, ethical, and evidence-based solutions.

Relationship Building Skill
Effectively working with others and establishing, cultivating, and leveraging networks over time.

Self and Social Awareness Skill
Understanding your personal strengths and limitations; recognizing your thoughts, emotions, and interactions; being open to receiving feedback and identifying how your behaviors impact others.

3. Skills in Unit 1

As you begin with this first unit, you will explore these skills in relation to sociology. You will begin to understand how you can use these skills to examine issues in our society. You will look deeper at how improving your skills

can help you understand where you are today and the steps you need to take to achieve your career and personal goals.

In particular, we will focus on the following skills:

Problem Solving

- How comparing sociological paradigms helps you solve problems
- How to use sociological research and the scientific method to explore issues in society
- How analyzing ethical issues in research enables you to more effectively solve problems

Self and Social Awareness
- How the study of sociology strengthens your understanding of yourself and others
- How using theory deepens your self and social awareness skills
- How qualitative research provides deeper insights of individuals, and groups of individuals, in society

Relationship Building
- How understanding the structural functionalist paradigm strengthens your ability to develop healthy relationships with others
- How understanding the symbolic interactionist paradigm builds your ability to relate to others in a productive and beneficial way

⚑ HINT

Throughout the course, be on the lookout for various call outs to help you better see the connections between the problem solving skill and the course content.

☑ SUMMARY

In this lesson, you learned that there are **10 essential employability skills**. Employers seek individuals who possess these skills and continue to work to strengthen them. These skills cut across all professions and career paths. You learned how problem solving, relationship building, and self and social awareness skills will be incorporated into this course and why they are valuable.

Best of luck in your learning!

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