

STEM Career Competencies

This handout summarizes the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Readiness Competencies, along with additional competencies that STEM employers particularly value.

Competency	Description
Career & Self-Development	Proactively build new skills, seek mentorship, and adapt to industry trends.
Communication	Explain complex STEM ideas clearly to both technical and non-technical audiences.
Critical Thinking / Problem Solving	Apply logic, data, and creativity to solve real-world problems.
Equity & Inclusion	Work effectively in diverse teams and understand different perspectives.
Leadership	Take initiative, guide teams, and make decisions under uncertainty.
Professionalism	Show reliability, ethical responsibility, and strong work ethic.
Teamwork	Collaborate across disciplines, building effective group outcomes.
Technology	Demonstrate comfort with evolving tools, coding, lab equipment, and digital platforms.
Project Management	Coordinate tasks, manage timelines, and deliver results on schedule.
Innovation & Creativity	Generate new solutions and approaches, not just apply formulas.
Data Literacy	Interpret, analyze, and visualize data effectively to inform decisions.