What Do Employers Expect from Biology Graduates?

At a recent forum, employers were asked what they are looking for in today's successful graduates. Their answers are listed below:

- Leadership and Strong Oral and Written Communication Skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Commitment to Customer Service
- Ability to Work with Teams
- Results Oriented
- Critical and Analytical Thinking Skills
- Solid Internship/Independent Study Experience
- Can Adapt to Change Easily/Flexible
- Statistics Math Background
- Solid Competence in Research Methodology and Scientific Techniques
- Excellent Planning Skills
- Volunteer and Extracurricular Activities
- Ability to Work with People from Diverse Cultural Backgrounds
- Fluency in a Second Language
- Proficient Computer Skills

Sample Occupations:

- Agricultural & Food Scientist
- Animal Behavior Careers
- Animal Health Technologist
- Animal Science (Dozens of Careers)
- Arborist
- Aquarist
- Aquarium Exhibit Coordinator
- Bioacoustics
- Biological Scientist
- Biomedical Engineer
- Biotechnology
- Botanist
- Carbon Trader
- Careers in Biology
- Careers in Forensic Science
- Careers in Genetics and the Biosciences
- Cave Biologist (audio & article, npr.org)
- College/University Faculty
- Consumer Products Research Scientist
- Discover Entomology Brochure
- Entomologist
- Exploring Options in Biology Careers
- Fish & Game Warden
- Food Scientist
- Forensic Scientist
- Forester & Conservation Scientist
- Guide to Careers in Science Writing
- Horticulturist
- Hospital Medical Assistants
- Laboratory Technician, Water Industry
- Life Science Careers
- Marine Biology & Oceanography (many links)
- Marine Mammal Scientist
- Medical Geneticist
- Medical Illustrator
- Medical Transcriptionist
- Microbiological Sciences
- Microbiologist
- Microbiologist, Water Industry
• Oceanographer
• Oceanography, Marine Science and Marine Biology
• Options with a Biology Degree
• Paleontologist
• Plant Breeding Technologist
• Pursuing a Career in Science and Law
• Science Careers Now
• Science Technician
• Toxicology
• Veterinary Technologist
• Water Conservation Specialist
• Water Quality Specialist
• Water Reclamation Specialist
• Water Resource Planner
• Wildlife Rehabilitation
• Zoo and Aquarium Jobs (pdf)

Health & Medical Professions (requiring post-baccalaureate degrees)
• Anesthesiologist
• Chiropractors
• Dentist, General
• Genetics Counseling
• Health Professions (36 brief descriptions)
• Naturopathic Physician
• Optometrists
• Orthotics & Prosthetics
• Osteopathy
• Pediatrician
• Pharmacy
• Physician & Surgeon
• Physician's Assistant
• Podiatrists
• Toxicologist

Employers:
• Agricultural Industry
• Biotechnology Companies
• Botanical Parks
• Clinics & Hospitals
• Colleges & Universities
• Conservation Society
• Crime/Forensic Labs
• Environmental/Pollution Control
• Museums
• Environmental Protection Agency
• Government Agencies
• Hospitals
• Industrial Laboratories
• Laboratories
• Manufacturers
• Medical Research Labs
• Medical Schools
• National Park Service
• National Science Foundation
• Park Districts
• Pharmaceutical Companies
• Private Research Foundations
• Public Health Departments
• Public Utilities
• Sanitation Districts
• U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
• Zoos and Aquariums
The student:

**Attitude**
- is an enthusiastic learner who seems to enjoy school
- exhibits a positive outlook and attitude in the classroom
- appears well rested and ready for each day’s activities
- shows enthusiasm for classroom activities
- shows initiative and looks for new ways to get involved
- uses instincts to deal with matters independently and in a positive way
- strives to reach his (or her) full potential
- is committed to doing his (or her) best
- seeks new challenges
- takes responsibility for his (or her) learning

**Behavior**
- cooperates consistently with the teacher and other students
- transitions easily between classroom activities without distraction
- is courteous and shows good manners in the classroom
- follows classroom rules
- conducts himself (or herself) with maturity
- responds appropriately when corrected
- remains focused on the activity at hand
- resists the urge to be distracted by other students
- is kind and helpful to everyone in the classroom
- sets an example of excellence in behavior and cooperation

**Character**
- shows respect for teachers and peers
- treats school property and the belongings of others with care and respect
- is honest and trustworthy in dealings with others
- displays good citizenship by assisting other students
- joins in school community projects
- is concerned about the feelings of peers
- faithfully performs classroom tasks
- can be depended on to do what he (or she) is asked to do
- seeks responsibilities and follows through
- is thoughtful in interactions with others

**Communication Skills**
- has a well-developed vocabulary
- chooses words with care
- expresses ideas clearly, both verbally and through writing
- has a vibrant imagination and excels in creative writing
- uses vivid language in writing
- writes clearly and with purpose
- writes with depth and insight
- can make a logical and persuasive argument
- listens to the comments and ideas of others without interrupting

**Group Work**
- offers constructive suggestions to peers to enhance their work
- accepts the recommendations of peers and acts on them when appropriate
- is sensitive to the thoughts and opinions of others in the group
- takes on various roles in the work group as needed or assigned
- welcomes leadership roles in groups
- shows fairness in distributing group tasks
- plans and carries out group activities carefully
- works democratically with peers
- encourages other members of the group
- helps to keep the work group focused and on task

**Interests and Talents**
- has a well-developed sense of humor
- holds many varied interests
- has a keen interest that has been shared with the class
- displays and talks about personal items from home when they relate to topics of study
- provides background knowledge about topics of particular interest to him (or her)
- has an impressive understanding and depth of knowledge about his (or her) interests
- seeks additional information independently about classroom topics that pique interest
- reads extensively for enjoyment
- frequently discusses concepts about which he (or she) has read
- is a gifted performer
- is a talented artist
- enjoys sharing his (or her) musical talent with the class
Participation
- listens attentively to the responses of others
- follows directions
- takes an active role in discussions
- enhances group discussion through insightful comments
- shares personal experiences and opinions with peers
- responds to what has been read or discussed in class and as homework
- asks for clarification when needed
- regularly volunteers to assist in classroom activities
- remains an active learner throughout the school day

Social Skills
- makes friends quickly in the classroom
- is well-liked by classmates
- handles disagreements with peers appropriately
- treats other students with fairness and understanding
- is a valued member of the class
- has compassion for peers and others
- seems comfortable in new situations
- enjoys conversation with friends during free periods
- chooses to spend free time with friends

Time Management
- tackles classroom assignments, tasks, and group work in an organized manner
- uses class time wisely
- arrives on time for school (and/or class) every day
- is well-prepared for class each day
- works at an appropriate pace, neither too quickly or slowly
- completes assignments in the time allotted
- paces work on long-term assignments
- sets achievable goals with respect to time
- completes make-up work in a timely fashion

Work Habits
- is a conscientious, hard-working student
- works independently
- is a self-motivated student
- consistently completes homework assignments
- puts his (or her) best effort into homework assignments
- exceeds expectations with the quality of his (or her) work
- readily grasps new concepts and ideas
- generates neat and careful work
- checks work thoroughly before submitting it

- stays on task with little supervision
- displays self-discipline
- avoids careless errors through attention to detail
- uses free minutes of class time constructively
- creates impressive projects

How many of these can be applied to YOU?