

The evolution of business school skills



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Corporate Recruiters
Survey 2026

According to global employers of MBA and business master's graduates, the importance of AI and technology skills will continue to rise. Yet the technology's disruption has also boosted the need for employees who can analyze its output, adapt based on the new information, and effectively communicate a new path forward.

Most important skills in 2025

1	Problem-solving (54%)
2	Strategic thinking (51%)
3	Communication skills (51%)
4	Adaptability (46%)
5	Leadership skills (44%)
6	Decision-making (44%)
7	Interpersonal/teamwork skills (44%)
8	Time/project management (44%)
9	Initiative (44%)
10	Data analysis/interpretation (42%)
11	Technology/IT skills (40%)
12	Emotional intelligence (40%)
13	Innovation (39%)
14	Coachability (38%)
15	Networking/relationship building (34%)
16	Skills in using AI tools (31%)
17	Grit (30%)
18	Global business skills (29%)
19	Lifelong learning (29%)
20	Cross-cultural competence (26%)
21	Entrepreneurship (25%)
22	Managing human capital (25%)

Most important skills in 2026

1	Communication skills (64%)
2	Problem-solving (62%)
3	Adaptability (60%)
4	Data analysis/interpretation (59%)
5	Interpersonal/teamwork skills (58%)
6	Strategic thinking (58%)
7	Decision-making (57%)
8	Technology/IT skills (55%)
9	Time/project management (55%)
10	Initiative (54%)
11	Leadership skills (53%)
12	Emotional intelligence (52%)
13	Innovation (52%)
14	Skills in using AI tools (50%)
15	Coachability (49%)
16	Networking/relationship building (48%)
17	Lifelong learning (42%)
18	Grit (41%)
19	Global business skills (36%)
20	Cross-cultural competence (34%)
21	Managing human capital (34%)
22	Entrepreneurship (28%)

Most important skills in 2031

1	Skills in using AI tools (53%)
2	Strategic thinking (50%)
3	Technology/IT skills (49%)
4	Decision-making (47%)
5	Problem-solving (47%)
6	Adaptability (46%)
7	Communication skills (45%)
8	Data analysis/interpretation (42%)
9	Innovation (42%)
10	Leadership skills (42%)
11	Emotional intelligence (39%)
12	Networking/relationship building (39%)
13	Lifelong learning (38%)
14	Time/project management (38%)
15	Global business skills (36%)
16	Initiative (36%)
17	Interpersonal/teamwork skills (34%)
18	Coachability (33%)
19	Grit (33%)
20	Cross-cultural competence (31%)
21	Managing human capital (31%)
22	Entrepreneurship (28%)

