

While Napoleon Dynamite stressed the importance of gun chuck, bow hunting, and computer hacking skills in getting a date (Napoleon Dynamite, 2004), skills in communication, creativity, and teamwork are all important for employability (University of Oxford, 2025). These skills are vital for employability and demonstrate idea generation, the ability to work well with others, and the capacity to deliver on a product or project. Though these skills focus on employability, research shows that many employability skills are developed in the classroom. According to Emms, K., Laczik, A., Quyoum, A. (2023), numeracy, problem solving, and teamwork were all reported as being developed through classwork. This is important to me as I prepare to graduate university and move into the workforce

The two industries I am most interested in going into are agriculture and non-profits. For my research into these two industries, I focused on companies and organizations located in Raleigh and the Research Triangle Park area. Cargill, Syngenta, Corteva Agriscience, and Louis Dreyfus Company are all listed as major employers in the agricultural industry here (McClure and Velazquez, 2025). In my search for an internship the past two years, I have also applied to different internships at BASF, another major player in this industry that is in RTP (RTP). Along with this, Indeed lists nonprofit organizations such as Meals on Wheels, American Red Cross, the Boys & Girls Clubs of American, and many others that all have locations within the RTP area.

A few key skills that I would need to either have or acquire to work for a non-profit, according to YNPN Greater Milwaukee Chapter (2023) include: communication, collaboration and relationship building, leadership, and inclusion. These are just some of the skills that help in “in addressing social issues, advocating for change, and supporting vulnerable populations,” (YNPN Greater Milwaukee Chapter 2023). In other words, these skills help to execute the

mission of the non-profit. These skills, along with being tech savvy and able to learn on the job, are important to work in the business side of agriculture (Triumvirate Environmental, 2025).

Knowing this, I wanted to assess the employability skills that I will be able to bring to my future career. To do this, I took the Meyers Briggs personality test. According to my results, my strengths include my creative vision, prioritization of my values, adaptability, and my ability to support team harmony. These strengths are coupled with weaknesses, which are also important to know (Tracey, 2015). My weaknesses were idealistic expectations, desire to avoid conflict, perfectionistic tendencies, and sensitivity to criticism.

These test results were insightful, but I also have experience to demonstrate my employability skills more tangibly. As a dedicated student, I am constantly juggling my course load, my work schedule, and personal life. In the job positions I have had, being able to prioritize and focus on certain tasks was often important. In both instances, I demonstrated my ability to multitask and manage my time effectively. Excluding babysitting, I have been a member of a team in every job I have worked at. From working at a restaurant to being a teacher's assistant, I have had copious experience being a good team player and adapting to the role that I needed to be. As a cashier at a grocery store, I was the last point of contact for customers. This means that they often brought their problems and gripes to me, and it was up to me to help fix their issues so that they had a positive experience at our store.

Being able to balance my time, workload, personal life, hobbies, and so on is essential to me as a student. As a self-employed babysitter, balancing my time between work, courseload (especially with summer classes) and other responsibilities helped me learn to better manage myself. Being a babysitter was a good fit for me, as I am a natural empath. This skill will also benefit me in the work force (Indeed Editorial Team, 2025).

To get an understanding of how this set of employability skills will help me getting a job after I graduate, I researched entry level positions in non-profit and agriculture. The School of Government Services non-profit has a position called “ncIMPACT Communications Manager” that helps to engage North Carolinians in practical scholarships (School of Government, 2025). For a starting position in agriculture, Triumvirate Environmental offers a role titled Sales Development, an entry level sales position (Triumvirate Environmental, 2025).

According to the School of Government (2025), the employability skills essential for the ncIMPACT Communications Manager center around communication and the ability to establish and maintain working relationships. Written communication is key because it is needed “to communicate complex program information with substantial impact to targeted audiences.” (School of Government, 2025). This role is also a very collaborative one, so being able to work well with others is important.

For the Sales Development Representative position advertised by Triumvirate Environmental (2025), on-the-job-learning and networking are two of the most important employability skills. The job description mentions a couple different tools and techniques used for sales, and the importance of being able to learn and use them throughout the course of this role (Triumvirate Environmental, 2025). Along with this, networking is also vital to this entry-level sales position. Communicating with clients, doing cold calls, and working in a team are all ways in which this position utilizes networking (Triumvirate Environmental, 2025).

Both positions also have an emphasis on being adept at using technology and the ability to manage time. (Triumvirate Environmental, 2025) and (School of Government, 2025). Fortunately for me, I have a good foundation in communication from experience, both in school as Student Council President, and jobs such as a camp counsellor. As for the emphasis on

establishing and maintaining working relationships and networking, I have had plenty of opportunity to do this since the start of university. Most recently, my networking ability helped me get a Teacher's Assistant job for the coming fall semester. Finally, on the job learning has been something I have been doing since age of 16. Whether it be navigating computer systems at a restaurant, or adapting to a changing social situation while babysitting, I find myself constantly having to learn and grow while on the job.

After researching these two industries and the skills required of them, I have a better understanding of what I want to do in a career, and how my employability skills will already help me towards this goal. My ability to communicate in a variety of channels lends itself well going into the non-profit sector. I especially find it easy to communicate with people who have a shared goal or vision, much as I would in a non-profit. Being able to connect with people in this way easily fulfills the need to establish and maintain working relationships that is vital to working in a non-profit. Furthermore, it is a goal of mine to make the world a better place. Working for an organization whose goal is centered around making a change, rather than a profit, seems like a natural path towards achieving this goal.

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