KEEP YOUR SKILLS CURRENT

Technology skills are essential for nearly every job these days. It's critical to stay ahead of the tech curve to get ahead in your career.

DIGITAL SKILLS ARE MORE THAN A PLUS. THEY'RE A MUST.

According to a recent Burning Glass Technologies study, more than 80 percent of middle-skill jobs today require some degree of digital literacy. From basic cloud-based word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software to more sophisticated data tracking and project management applications, technology skills are a high priority for the majority of hiring managers. The Burning Glass study also found a connection between digital skill level, pay, and career advancement. The conclusion is obvious: Digital skills are a must for success in today's job market.

Which tech skills are in demand?

The technology skills required or desired vary widely by industry and job. Most jobs demand proficiency in document creation, spreadsheet management, and presentation design software such as Microsoft Office and Google Suite. In a world of increasingly remote work, many employers expect candidates to have experience with project management and communication tools like Slack and Asana or Trello.

To determine the technologies in demand for your industry, you'll want to research job postings in your field. Most spell out the software programs and tech skills required. LinkedIn creates a list each year of the most in-demand skills based on its data. This list shows 2020's top 10 based on company demand, each tied to courses available through LinkedIn Learning.

- Blockchain
- Cloud Computing
- Analytical Reasoning
- Artificial Intelligence
- UX Design
- Business Analysis
- Affiliate Marketing
- Sales
- Scientific Computing
- Video Production

Upskilling to meet demand

Once you have a sense of in-demand skills in the fields and entry points that match your interests, it's important to identify ways to build these skills. Here are some suggestions:

! HERE ARE SOME GREAT PLACES TO START

LinkedIn Learning
YouTube
Coursera
EdX
Udemy
Google
Khan Academy

Take online courses. Most software or technologies can be learned through a wide variety of training programs. DePaul students can log in to LinkedIn Learning for unlimited free access to a vast online library of instructional videos covering the latest software, creative, business, and technical skills.

Professional organizations offer webinars and other educational opportunities for industry-specific professional development. Many technology tools offer product webinars or free trials (or even free versions) that allow you to experience the application.

Learn through your employer. Many employers offer continuing education programs to build employee competency—expressing eagerness to learn new skills and technologies is a good way to start the conversation.

Hybrid Jobs: an Emerging Career Trend

According to leading online learning platform edX, hybrid jobs are changing the career landscape.

Hybrid jobs merge skill sets from traditionally unrelated fields. A recent Burning Glass Technologies' Hybrid Job Economy report found that these positions are growing at twice the rate of the overall job market and pay 20–40 percent more than traditional roles.

Hybrid roles blend technical with creative skills—think marketing and statistics, or web design and programming. Data science is a big technical skill for hybrid roles, impacting jobs that once had little to do with statistics such as marketing. One reason to pay attention: The Burning Glass report says introducing a single new skill can increase salaries by up to 40 percent!

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