

Employability Framework

The QA Commons utilizes five criteria that represent a comprehensive and integrated framework for employability.



1 EEQ Graduate Preparation

Accreditors require all programs to define and assess student learning outcomes (SLOs). However, institutions rarely integrate essential qualities employers cite as most needed into their assessment frameworks. The EEQs are evidence-based and define employability skills and qualities, situated in workplace contexts, that can be incorporated into program and course learning outcomes. The EEQ CERT validates that all students have gained proficiency in employability skills.

2 Career Support Services

Today's students need career information and guidance more than ever. According to a Gallup study, only 17% of those students who used career services found them helpful. The QA Commons leads the effort to transform career services by endorsing programs' integrating career services throughout the program and tracking the results.

3 Employer Engagement

Employer engagement is vital to ensuring career readiness. While employer advisory boards are important for occasional advice, they are rarely sufficient. Employers seek deeper engagement that is substantive, relevant, and utilized.

4 Student & Alumni Engagement

Incorporation of alumni engagement and program feedback is essential. Similarly, student involvement and self assessment are needed to provide confidence they are prepared for the workplace.

5 Public Information

Program-specific information on completion rates, average loans, graduate careers, and salaries published in public forums empowers and informs students and parents about career pathways and opportunities.