

21ST CENTURY SKILLS

21st Century skills are 12 abilities that are needed to succeed in careers during the Information Age.

The twelve 21st Century skills are:

1. Critical thinking
2. Creativity
3. Collaboration
4. Communication
5. Information literacy
6. Media literacy
7. Technology literacy
8. Flexibility
9. Leadership
10. Initiative
11. Productivity
12. Social skills

These skills are intended to help individuals keep up with the lightning-pace of today's modern markets. Each skill is unique in how it helps individuals, but they all have one quality in common.

THE THREE 21ST CENTURY SKILL CATEGORIES.

Each 21st Century skill is broken into one of three categories:

1. Learning skills
2. Literacy skills
3. Life skills

Learning skills (the four C's) teaches individuals about the mental processes required to adapt and improve upon a modern work environment.

Literacy skills (IMT) focus on how individuals can discern facts, publishing outlets, and the technology behind them. There's a strong focus on determining trustworthy sources and factual information to separate it from the misinformation that floods the Internet.

Life skills (FLIPS) take a look at intangible elements of an individual's everyday life. These intangibles focus on both personal and professional qualities.

CATEGORY 1. LEARNING SKILLS (THE FOUR C'S)

The four C's are by far the most popular 21st Century skills. These skills are also called learning skills.

More educators know about these skills because they're universal needs for any career. They also vary in terms of importance, depending on an individual's career aspirations.

The 4 C's of 21st Century Skills are:

Learn, Share, Earn

- **Critical thinking:** Finding solutions to problems
- **Creativity:** Thinking outside the box
- **Collaboration:** Working with others
- **Communication:** Talking to others

CATEGORY 2. LITERACY SKILLS (IMT)

Literacy skills are the next category of 21st Century skills.

They're sometimes called IMT skills, and they're each concerned with a different element in digital comprehension.

The three 21st Century literacy skills are:

- **Information literacy:** Understanding facts, figures, statistics, and data.
- **Media literacy:** Understanding the methods and outlets in which information is published.
- **Technology literacy:** Understanding the machines that make the Information Age possible.

Information literacy is the foundational skill. It helps individuals understand facts, especially data points that they'll encounter online.

CATEGORY 3. LIFE SKILLS (FLIPS)

Life skills is the final category. Also called **FLIPS**, these skills all pertain to someone's personal life, but they also bleed into professional settings.

The five 21st Century life skills are:

KNOWLEDGE TO EARN

- **Flexibility:** Deviating from plans as needed
- **Leadership:** Motivating a team to accomplish a goal
- **Initiative:** Starting projects, strategies, and plans on one's own
- **Productivity:** Maintaining efficiency in an age of distractions
- **Social skills:** Meeting and networking with others for mutual benefit