

Lecture 1

Getting ready to learn

greenwich.edu.vn



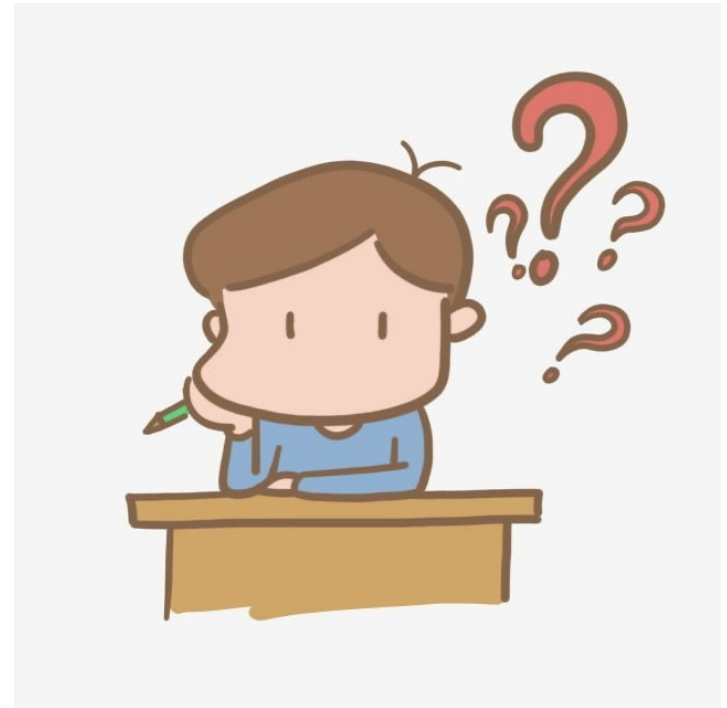
Alliance with  Education

- I. Characteristics of successful students
- II. Understanding your learning styles
- III. Understanding instructors' teaching styles
- IV. Meet instructors' expectations
- V. Career awareness

I. Characteristics of successful students

Activity 1: Complete the questionnaire 'Where are you now?'

- The questionnaire is taken from Course book 1 (Blerkkom, 2008, p.46).
- Task:
 - 5 mins to do this quick quiz by yourself.
 - 10 mins to discuss the results with your peer(s) and the instructor.



Where Are You Now?

Take a few minutes to answer *yes* or *no* to the following questions.

	YES	NO
1. Do you know how to increase your motivation?	_____	_____
2. Do you know where to go on your campus to get financial aid, a tutor, and information on clubs and organizations?	_____	_____
3. If you miss class, do you expect your professor to go over the material with you at a later date?	_____	_____
4. Do you know your preferred learning style?	_____	_____
5. Do you plan to take a lighter course load during your first semester in college?	_____	_____
6. Do you attend class regularly and stay up-to-date with your assignments?	_____	_____
7. Do you experience stress about getting your assignments done on time?	_____	_____
8. Do you make decisions without thinking about the outcome?	_____	_____
9. Have you really thought about why you are in college?	_____	_____
10. Do you expect college to be the same as high school?	_____	_____

TOTAL POINTS _____

Give yourself 1 point for each *yes* answer to all questions except 3, 7, 8, and 10 and 1 point for each *no* answer to questions 3, 7, 8, and 10. Now total up your points. A low score indicates that you need some help adjusting to college. A high score indicates that you already have realistic expectations.

I. Characteristics of successful students (cont.)

- Although there is no exact formula for success, research indicates that some factors do lead to success.
 - **Active learner:** talk and listen, write, read, and reflect on (think about) what they are learning.
 - **Strategic learner:** are students who view studying and learning as a systematic process that is, to a good degree, under their control.

1. Active learner

- **Talking** about the information **listening** to others discuss the information in a study group
→ gets you actively involved in the learning process. In addition to reviewing information, you are elaborating on it by **putting it in your own words**.
- **Active reading** involves previewing, highlighting, predicting questions, and thinking critically about the material, all of which force you to interact with the printed words
→ help you activate your prior knowledge (what you already know about the topic), identify the key information, check your understanding of it, and form connections within the material.

1. Active learner (cont.)

- **Writing** summaries, taking notes, developing concept maps and study sheets, and writing out answers to predicted essay questions
 - help you organize and synthesize (combine the parts into a whole) the information as you learn it.
- **Reflecting** on the information helps you gain a deeper understanding of the material and form connections between the new information and your prior knowledge.
 - Getting actively involved in your learning is the first step toward succeeding in college. You'll learn many active learning strategies in this course.

2. Strategic learner

- Weinstein's model of strategic learning involves three main components: skill, will, and self-regulation.
 - **Skill:** strategic learners possess a wide variety of skills to aid their learning, which include knowledge about yourself as a learner, knowledge about different types of academic tasks, knowledge about strategies for learning, prior content knowledge, and knowledge about the contexts in which that knowledge could be useful.
 - **Will:** involves setting goals, selecting appropriate study strategies, and believing in your own ability and in the study strategies that you have chosen. In addition, strategic learners are motivated—they are willing to work hard to achieve their goals.
 - **Self-regulation:** They manage their time well, monitor their learning, evaluate the results of their effort, and approach learning in a systematic way.

II. Understanding your learning styles

1. What is learning style?

- **Learning style** refers to the preferred way that you acquire, process, and retain information—**the way you learn best.**
- We learn new tasks **in different ways**; we each have our own style or preference for learning. The time of day you study, the kinds of strategies you use, whether you work alone or with a group, and even the place you study are all aspects of your learning style.
- **Factors may affect learning styles** include: cultural factors, left-brained/right brained, ‘thinking’ or ‘feeling’ approach of learners to new situations (Klob’s theory)

2. Three main learning styles

- Activity 2: Complete the questionnaire ‘What’s Your Learning Style?’
 - The questionnaire is taken from Course book 1 (Blerkkom, 2008, p.54).
 - Task:
 - Complete the Learning Style Inventory in Figure 1.1A.
 - Then use the information in Figure 1.1B to determine your preferred learning style among the following three styles: auditory, visual and kinesthetic styles.



Activity 2 (cont.)

As you read each of the following statements, put a check mark for *yes* or *no* to indicate the response that describes you best.

	YES	NO
1. I remember things better if someone tells me about them than if I read about them.	_____	_____
2. I'd rather read about "tapping" (extracting the sap from) trees than take a field trip and actually tap a tree.	_____	_____
3. I'd rather watch a video of a news item on the Internet than read an article about it.	_____	_____
4. I'd rather build a model of a volcano than read an article about famous volcanoes.	_____	_____
5. When I'm having trouble understanding my text chapter, I find that reading it out loud helps improve my comprehension.	_____	_____
6. If I had to identify specific locations on a map for an exam, I would rather practice by drawing and labeling a map than by reciting the locations out loud.	_____	_____
7. I tend to better understand my professor's lecture when I read the text material ahead of time.	_____	_____
8. I would rather take part in a demonstration of how to use a new computer program than read a set of directions on its use.	_____	_____
9. If someone asked me to make a model for a class project, I would rather have someone explain how to make it than rely on written directions.	_____	_____
10. If I were preparing for an exam, I'd rather listen to a summary of the chapter than write my own summary.	_____	_____
11. I would prefer my professor to give me written directions rather than oral directions when I have to do a writing assignment.	_____	_____
12. I'd rather listen to the professor's lecture before I read the chapter.	_____	_____
13. If I had to learn to use a new software program, I'd prefer to read the written directions rather than have a friend describe how to use it.	_____	_____
14. If I have trouble understanding how to complete a writing assignment, I prefer to have written directions than have someone explain how to do it.	_____	_____
15. I like to listen to books on tape more than I like to read books.	_____	_____
16. When I have to learn spelling or vocabulary lists, I prefer to practice by reciting out loud rather than by writing the words over and over again.	_____	_____
17. If I had a choice, I would prefer to watch a video of someone else doing chemistry experiments than actually perform them myself.	_____	_____
18. When I have trouble with a math problem, I prefer to work through the sample problems rather than have someone tell me how to do them.	_____	_____

Your responses in both the *yes* and *no* columns are important for determining your preferred learning style. Tally your responses using the following scoring key and then use the chart to total your responses.

1. Circle your *yes* and *no* responses as they appear in the boxes below. Not all numbers will be circled.

Auditory	Visual	Kinesthetic
Yes: 1 3 5 9 10 12 15 16 No: 6 7 11 13 14 18	Yes: 2 7 11 13 14 17 No: 1 3 4 5 8 9 12 15	Yes: 4 6 8 18 No: 2 10 16 17

2. Then total your circled *yes* and *no* answers in the chart below.

	A (Auditory)	V (Visual)	K (Kinesthetic)
Number of <i>yes</i> responses			
Number of <i>no</i> responses			
Total points			
Cutoff score	8	8	5

3. Total your scores for each column.
4. Compare your total with the cutoff score.
5. If your score is equal to or higher than the cutoff score, then you show a preference for that style of learning. The higher your score is, the stronger your preference for that style of learning. You may find that you have high scores in two areas; that's okay. You may learn well using more than one learning style. Note: Your total points for the A, V, and K columns should add up to 18.

a. Auditory learner

- Learn best by hearing information.
 - Probably prefer to go to class and listen to the lecture before reading the text chapter.
 - Reading difficult text passages out loud is also a good idea for the auditory learner.
 - Discussing the course material, mumbling information when reading and studying, asking and answering questions out loud, and listening to study notes on tape
 - You may find that you can actually “hear” the professor’s lecture when you try to recall the specific point you need to answer a test question.



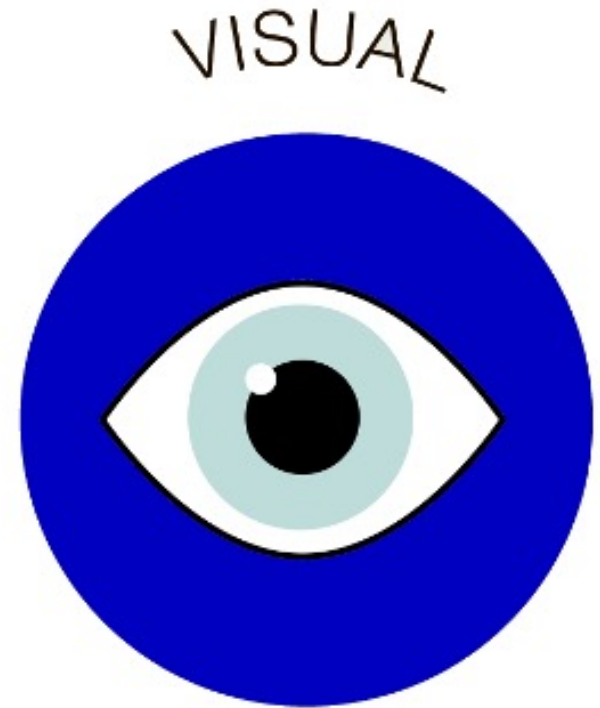
a. Auditory learner (cont.)

- Active learning strategies:

Read difficult passages out loud	Teach materials to someone/something else	Explain information out loud
Discuss the text assignment or lecture material with a study partner/group	Tape the lectures from your most difficult class & play them again when you commute or do household chores	Cover the details in your lecture notes and recite from the headings
Recite out loud the answers to questions appearing in the margin or on word & question cards	Recite the main points at the end of every headed section of the text	Create a taped self-test & recite the answers before listening to correct ones
Explain the steps for solving math & science problems	Create rhymes, poems & songs to recall information	

b. Visual learner

- Learn best by seeing things.
 - Reading; looking at pictures, diagrams, and charts; and watching films, videos, and demonstrations are all ways to learn new information.
 - Probably understand the professor's lecture better if reading the text chapter ahead of time.
 - Probably reread your text and lecture notes, rewrite your notes, take notes, and fill in study guides or make study sheets when preparing for exam.
 - During an exam, you may be able to “see” the correct answer in your mind's eye. Have you ever closed your eyes and pictured the information on the textbook page, the chalkboard, or your study sheets?



b. Visual learner (cont.)

- Active learning strategies:

Read & highlight your text	Read related materials	Write self-test questions
Create charts	Edit your lecture notes	Outline information
Visualize pictures, diagrams	Color code your notes and study sheets	Take modified-block notes
Write questions in the margin and underline the answers	Write out steps in a process for solving math and science problems	Create visual images to connect information to acronyms & acrostics
Map information	Create study sheets	Take online tests
Use method of loci to recall information	Write word & question cards	

c. Kinesthetic learner

- Learn best by doing things.
 - Prefer hands-on tasks that allow to touch and feel.
 - Many of the strategies used by visual and auditory learners also appeal to kinesthetic learners. E.g:
 - Mapping: Whereas the visual learner can recall the information from a concept map by seeing it, the kinesthetic learner will be able to remember it by the feel of how he or she created it.
 - Flash cards: Many auditory learners use flash cards to recite definitions or information about a topic. The kinesthetic learner also learns well from making up the flash cards as well as from the action of self-testing.
 - Learn well from doing experiments, taking self-tests, or replicating the tasks they will later have to perform in the testing situation.



c. Kinesthetic learner (cont.)

- Active learning strategies:

Take notes as you read the assignments	Work problems	Practice in study groups and review sessions
Predict questions in the margin at the end of each headed section	Create word, question, problem cards & practice them in groups of 10 or 15	Make up self-test in the same format as the actual test & take them
Practice labelling diagrams, recreating maps, filling in charts to learn information for exams	Construct diagrams, models, problem cards to practice math & science material	Make up puzzles or games (e.g. Jeopardy or the Match game) to learn text & lecture material
Develop acronyms & acrostics to recall information & practice using them	Take end-of-chapter & online tests to prepare for exams	

d. Integrated learning styles

- Although each of us has a preferred learning style, most of us learn information by using a combination of learning styles.
- In fact, some courses, assignments, or exams may require you to use one or more of your less preferred learning styles in order to complete the task.
 - E.g. When you are forced to complete a hands-on activity, you may find that using a kinesthetic approach is more successful. **Even though it's not your best way to learn *most* material, it is the best way to learn *that* material.**



Visual



Auditory



Kinaesthetic

3. Other characteristics of learning styles

- Activity 3: Complete the questionnaire ‘Find out more about how you learn best’
 - The questionnaire is taken from Course book 1 (Blerkkom, 2008, p.58).
 - Task:
 - Complete the quiz by yourself.
 - Compare and discuss your rankings with what you actually do most of the time (e.g. you may find study best in the morning but you do most of your learning in the evening → why?, efficiency of your learning then?, etc.).

Find Out More About How You Learn Best

Rank the four responses to each item according to the following scale in order to determine more about how you learn best: 4 = best, 3 = good, 2 = fair, 1 = poor.

1. I learn best when I study

- _____ in the morning.
- _____ in the afternoon.
- _____ in the evening.
- _____ late at night.

2. I learn best when I study

- _____ in complete quiet.
- _____ with soft background noise.
- _____ with moderate levels of noise.
- _____ in a noisy environment.

3. I learn best when I study

- _____ by myself.
- _____ with my regular study partner.
- _____ with a small group.
- _____ in a large-group review session or recitation class.

4. When I take exams, I generally

- _____ just guess to get done.
- _____ pick the first answer that looks right.
- _____ read all the possible answers before I choose one.
- _____ eliminate incorrect responses before I select the correct answer.

III. Understanding instructors' teaching styles

Activity 4: Evaluate your instructors' teaching styles

- Activity is taken from Course book 1 (Blerkkom, 2008, p.60).
- Task:
 - 5 mins to do this quick quiz by yourself.
 - 10 mins to discuss & compare your learning and instructors' teaching styles with your peer(s)



Evaluate Your Instructors' Teaching Styles

Use the chart to evaluate three of your instructors' teaching styles. Check the appropriate space if your instructor uses any of these activities. Then count the check marks for visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities to determine your instructors' preferred teaching styles. Do your instructors' teaching styles match your learning style?

Instructional Mode	Instructor's Name:	Instructor's Name:	Instructor's Name:
1. Lectures			
2. Writes on board			
3. Uses transparencies			
4. Shows videos			
5. Uses handouts			
6. Includes discussions			
7. Does experiments			
8. Does demonstrations			
9. Gives directions orally			
10. Gives directions in writing			
11. Uses group activities			
Instructor's preferred teaching style:			
Your preferred learning style:			

III. Understanding instructors' teaching styles (cont.)

- Many professors teach the way that they learn best; they use their preferred learning style.
 - Professors who are auditory learners typically lecture and involve students in class discussions.
 - Visual learners present material primarily through handouts, videos, and transparencies and by writing key information on the chalk- board.
 - Kinesthetic learners often teach through demonstrations, class activities, experiments, and other hands-on methods.
- Your learning style vs instructor's teaching style:
 - If you learn best through the method that your professor uses, you probably feel very comfortable, in control, or “in your element” in that particular course.
 - If, on the other hand, your learning style doesn't match your professor's teaching style, you may feel uncomfortable in class, have difficulty completing assignments, and perform poorly on exams. This mismatch can lead to frustration and even failure. How to deal with this mismatch? (Any ideas???)

IV. Meet instructors' expectations

- Study the **course syllabus**, make use fully all **other course materials**
- Take **responsible** for your own learning
- Be **active & strategic** learner
- **Communicate** with your instructor
 - Let your instructor know your learning difficulties and seek for support in a polite way!
 - The instructor may adjust their teaching style or offer some suggestions/provide additional resources to help you overcome the learning difficulties.



IV. Meet instructors' expectations

- Apply the **active learning strategies** for your learning styles to adapt to your instructor's teaching style. E.g.
 - If the professor lectures in every class, but you are a visual learner and not an auditory one, you can create your own charts, graphs or visual aids from the notes you take in class.
 - Auditory learners probably would do well in a lecture-based classroom but not so well in a classroom where the professor uses diagrams, charts or graphs to teach. If so, you can record the lecture to re-listen after class or re-discuss the materials with your friends to fully understand the materials.
 - Kinesthetic learners would struggle with both lectures and visual teaching methods as they do best when completing a task. If you are a kinesthetic learner in a lecture-based or visually driven classroom, it may be helpful to create your own hands-on approach, take part in experiments or ask the professor for a task you could complete related to the material taught in class.

There are different key skill sets and career opportunities for each major:

1. Business
2. IT/Computer Science
3. Graphic design

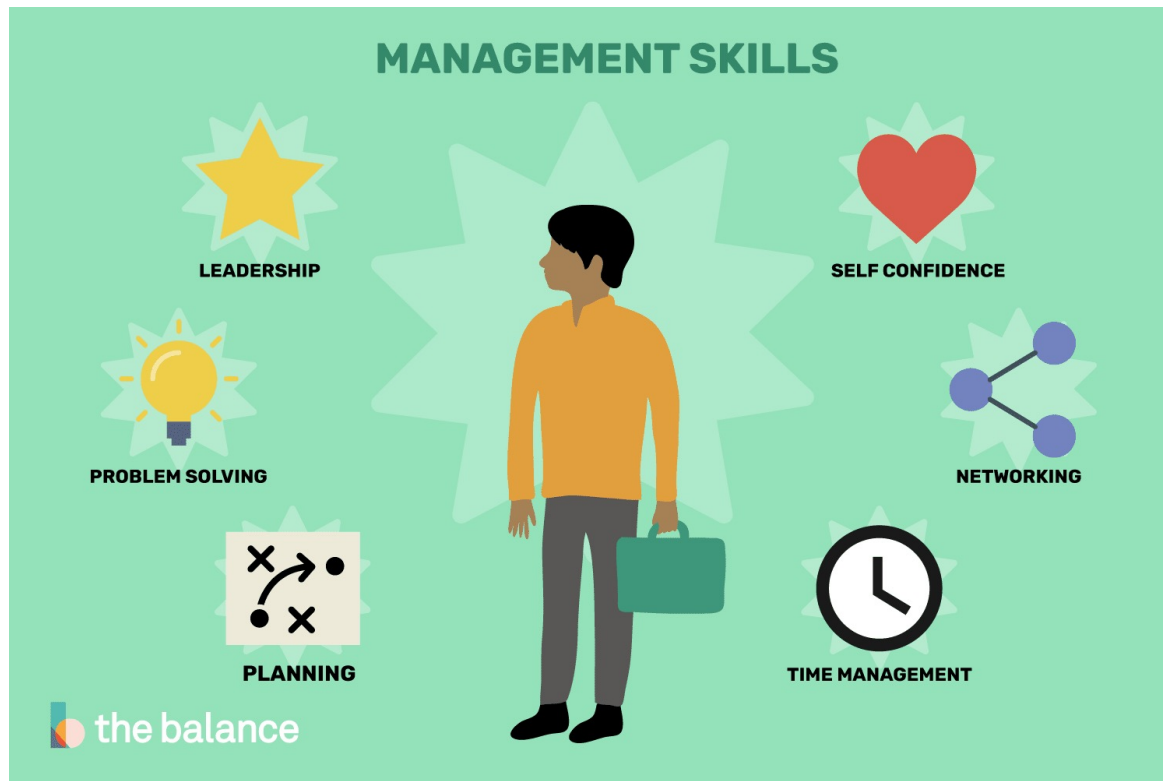
V. Career awareness



(LinkedIn, 2020)

1. Business Majors

- Important job skills for business majors:



(The Balance Career Website, 2020)

1. Business Majors (cont.)

- Career opportunities for business majors:

- **Possible areas:**

Consulting

Retail buying

Retail management

Teaching

Marketing

Sales

Advertising

Consumer products

Retail banking

Investment banking

Hospitality, leisure and
tourism

- **(Alternatively) Possible job roles after graduation:**

Trader

Market researcher

PR officer

Logistics/distribution
officer

HR officer

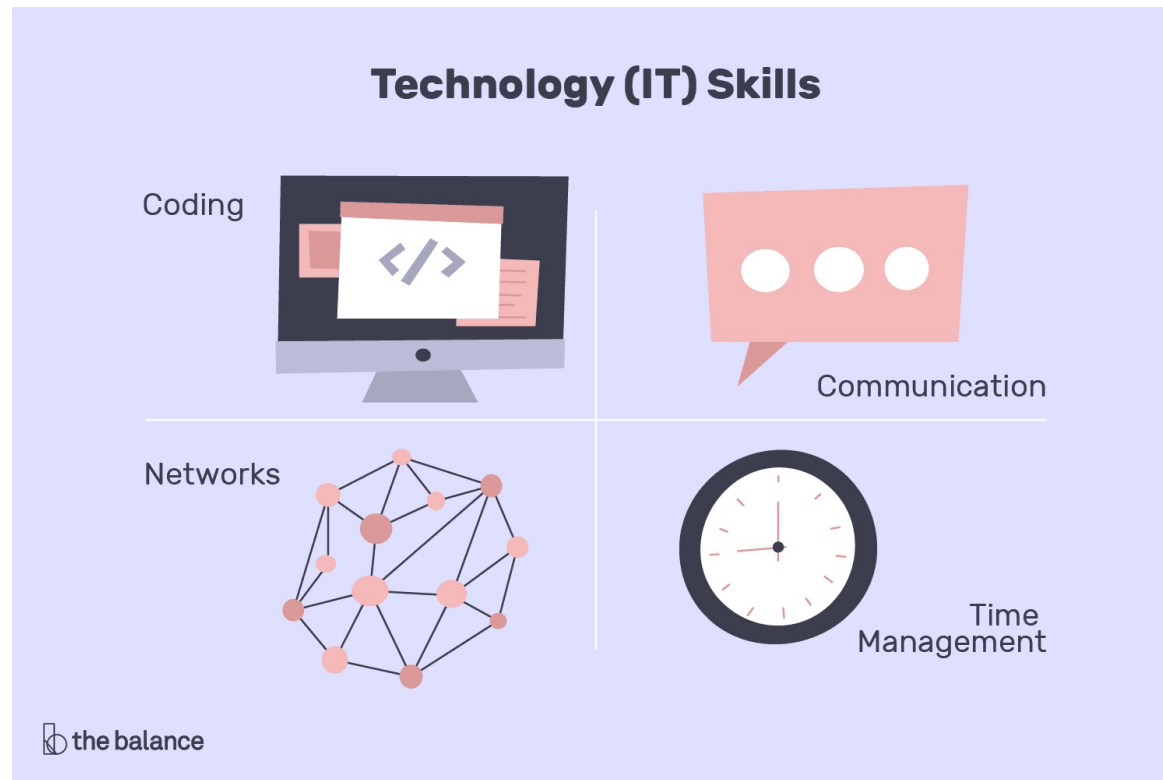
Accountant

Insurance underwriter

Consultant

2. IT/Computer Science

- Important job skills for IT majors:



(The Balance Career Website, 2020)

2. IT/Computer Science (cont.)

- Career opportunities for IT major:

Computer support
specialist / 1st line support

Software developer

Computer systems engineer

Business intelligence
analyst

Web developer

Software quality assurance
(QA) tester

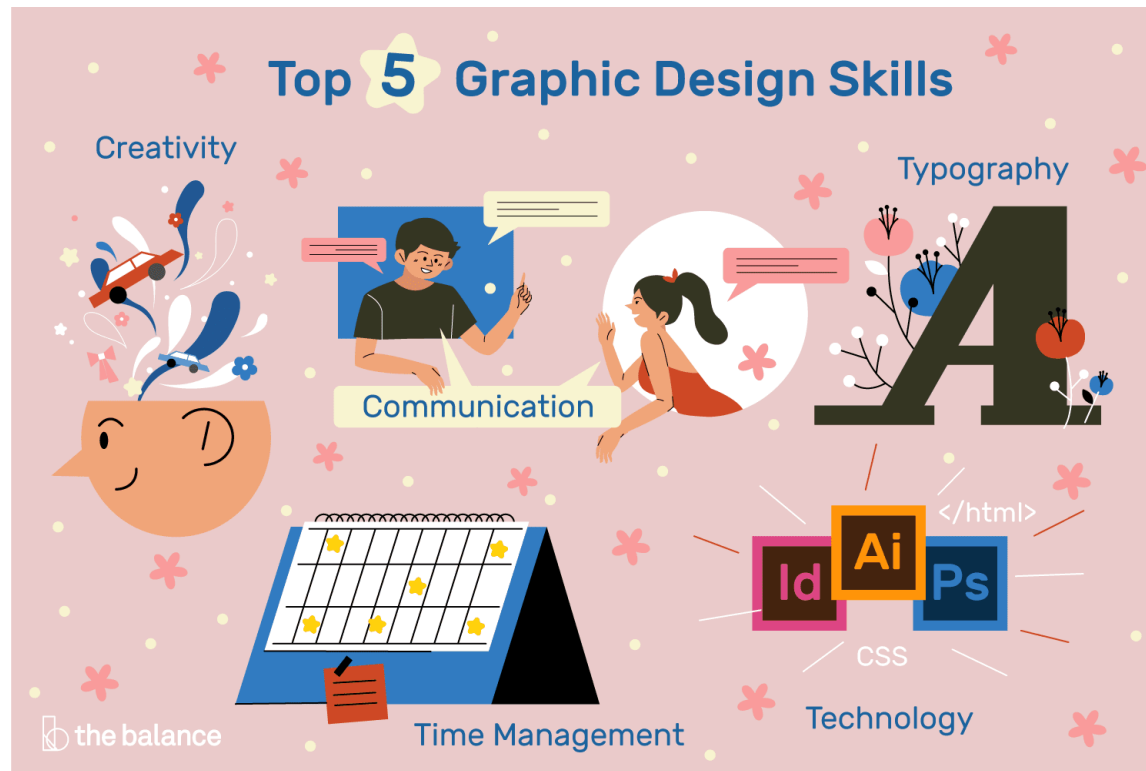
IT security analyst

Computer Science
teacher

IT scientific researcher

3. Graphic design

- Important job skills for graphic designers:



(The Balance Career Website, 2020)

3. Graphic design (cont.)

- Career opportunities for graphic designers:

Multimedia Designer

Web Designer

Logo Designer

Brand Identity Designer

Flash Designer

Creative/Art Director

Photo Editing/Photoshop
Artist

Layout Artist

Animator

- Chapter 1: “Getting Ready to Learn”

Coursebook 1: Blerkom, D. (2009). *College Study Skills: Becoming a Strategic Learner*. 6th ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

- Homework:

Create a practical check-list to study effectively with your learning style and how to adapt your instructors’ teaching styles (if there is a style mismatch).