A majority of employers believe that colleges should place greater emphasis on a variety of learning outcomes developed through a liberal education, which include the following:

→Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
  - Concepts and new developments in science and technology (70%)
  - The ability to understand the global context of situations and decisions (67%)
  - Global issues and developments and their implications for the future (65%)
  - The role of the United States in the world (57%)
  - Cultural diversity in America and other countries (57%)

→Intellectual and practical skills
  - The ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing (89%)
  - Critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills (81%)
  - The ability to analyze and solve complex problems (75%)
  - Teamwork skills and the ability to collaborate with others in diverse group settings (71%)
  - The ability to innovate and be creative (70%)
  - The ability to locate, organize, and evaluate information from multiple sources (68%)
  - The ability to work with numbers and understand statistics (63%)

→Personal and social responsibility
  - The ability to connect choices and actions to ethical decisions (75%)
  - Civic knowledge, civic participation, and community engagement (52%)

→Integrative learning
  - The ability to apply knowledge and skills to real-world settings through internships or other hands-on experiences (79%)

When it comes to future hiring, employers indicate that their greatest increase in emphasis will be on hiring graduates from four-year colleges.

Employers see a positive benefit in educational innovations that foster active learning and research skills.

The areas [learning objectives] in which employers feel that colleges most need to increase their focus include:
1) written and oral communication, 2) critical thinking and analytical reasoning, 3) the application of knowledge and skills in real-world settings, 4) complex problem-solving and analysis, 5) ethical decision-making, 6) teamwork skills, 7) innovation and creativity, and 8) concepts and developments in science and technology.