

Hart Research Associates

about science and technology (56% more emphasis), but it is still a lower priority than active, effortful learning and skills development.

- Employers endorse several educational practices as potentially helpful in preparing college students for workplace success. These include practices that require students to a) conduct research and use evidence-based analysis; b) gain in-depth knowledge in the major and analytic, problem solving, and communication skills; and c) apply their learning in real-world settings.

11 **Employers recognize the importance of today’s colleges and universities providing a liberal education—one that focuses on both broad knowledge in a variety of areas and knowledge in a specific field of interest, as well as intellectual and practical skills that span all areas of study and a sense of social responsibility. When given a description of the component elements of a liberal education, nearly all consider this kind of learning very or fairly important for colleges to provide, and the large majority would recommend this approach to young people they know**

- When presented with a description of liberal education (see full description in corresponding graph), fully 94% of employers say it is important for today’s colleges to provide this type of education, including half (51%) who say it is very important to do so.

Employers endorse the concept of a liberal education.

How important is it for today’s colleges to provide this type of education?

“This approach to a college education provides both broad knowledge in a variety of areas of study and knowledge in a specific major or field of interest. It also helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as intellectual and practical skills that span all areas of study, such as communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.”

