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National Association of Colleges and Employers

# STUDENTS: INTERNSHIPS POSITIVELY IMPACT COMPETENCIES

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Students feel that their experiential education assignments have a positive impact on their career readiness competencies, according to results of NACE's *2018 Student Survey*.

Nearly four-fifths of students responding to the survey who have had an internship and/or co-op said their professionalism and work ethic were "very" or "extremely" improved by the experience. (See Figure 1.)

Likewise, nearly three-quarters of students felt their internship and/or co-op had a significantly positive impact on their teamwork/collaboration and oral and written communication skills.

These results align with how students spent much of their time during their internships/co-ops—operating in a professional environment, working as part of a team, and communicating with others.

The *2018 Student Survey Report* details the attitudes, behaviors, and outcomes for bachelor's degree students at all class levels. (Note: Previous reports provided data only on graduating seniors.) The focus of this report is the 22,109 bachelor's degree students from the 2017-18 academic school year (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018). Breakdowns by class level are as follows: 4,336 freshmen, 4,174 sophomores, 5,709 juniors, and 7,890 graduating seniors. Data collection took place from February 14, 2018, to April 30, 2018. Participating schools will find a

complimentary copy of the *2018 Student Survey Report* in [MyNACE > Research Reports](#) (<http://www.naceweb.org/mynace/research-reports/>); an executive summary is available on NACEWeb (<http://www.naceweb.org/store/2018/2018-nace-student-survey-report/>).

**Figure 1: Percent of respondents who reported competencies were “very” to “extremely” improved by their internship/co-op experience**

| COMPETENCY                        | PERCENTAGE |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Professionalism/Work Ethic        | 79.2%      |
| Teamwork/Collaboration            | 72.6%      |
| Oral/Written Communications       | 71.5%      |
| Critical Thinking/Problem Solving | 66.6%      |
| Leadership                        | 59.1%      |
| Digital Technology                | 48.7%      |
| Career Management                 | 48.7%      |
| Global/Intercultural Fluency      | 33.3%      |

Source: *2018 Student Survey Report*, National Association of Colleges and Employers

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