

# What Does it Mean to Be College and Career Ready?

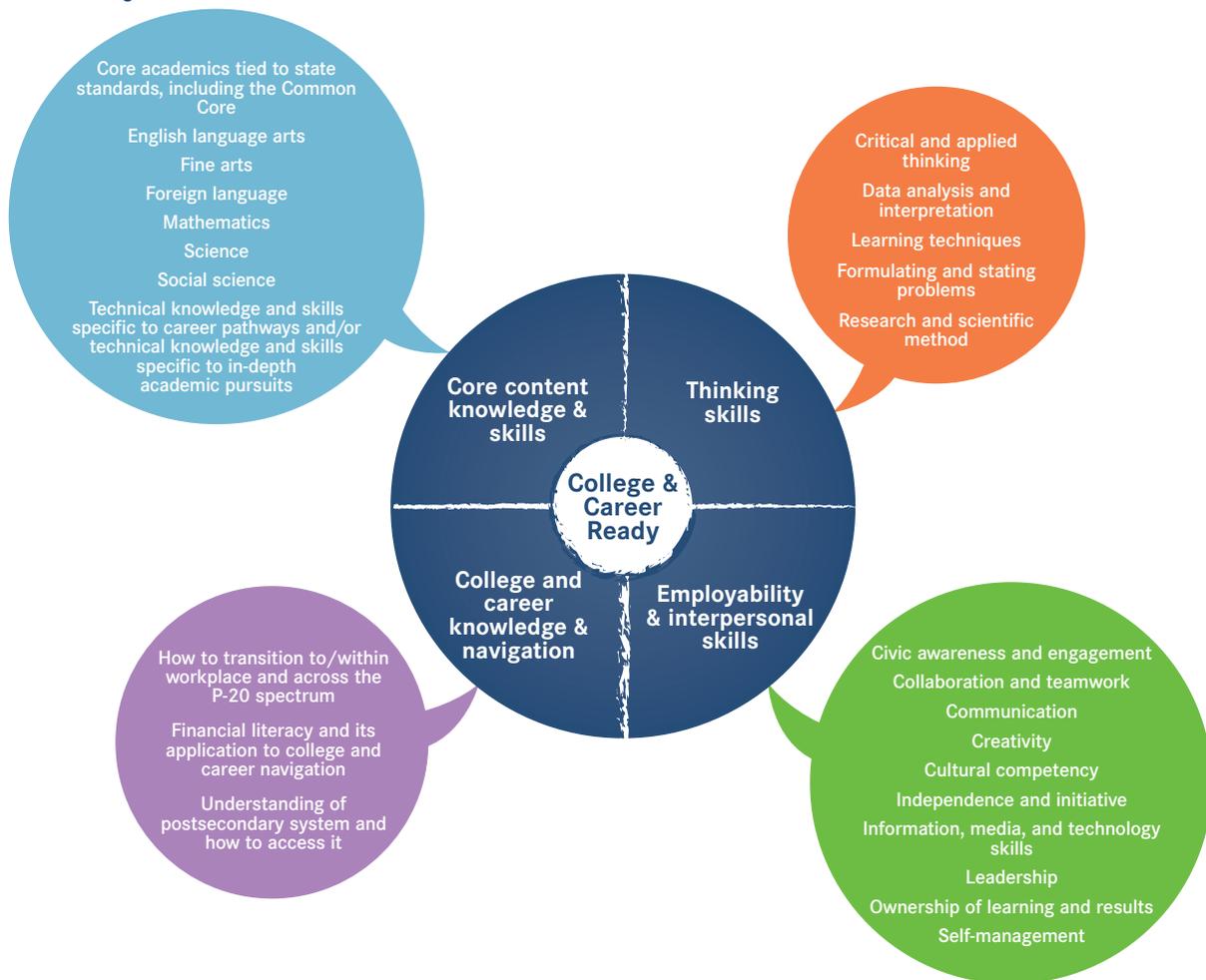


Summer 2014

## Today's conversations about education reform

often include a discussion of "college and career readiness." In general, students who are college and career ready enter college without the need for remedial coursework and/or join the workforce with the foundational knowledge and supporting skills employers are looking for, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. The following figure illustrates the four categories of college- and career-ready skills.

### A College- and Career-Readiness Framework



Each of these skills plays an important role in ensuring that students and workers are college and career ready. Regardless of the paths that students take, it is important to provide a strong foundation in all of these areas to allow students the chance to enter college or a career pathway that will offer opportunities for advancement and a family-sustaining wage.

The Common Core State Standards work to do just that, by providing clear guidelines of the knowledge and skills students should gain at each level of their education, so that they graduate prepared for success.

