



VIRTUAL FORUM

The Soft Skills Gap

THE CHRONICLE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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POLL QUESTION

**How prepared
is your college to
teach soft skills
to students?**

POLL RESULTS

Well prepared



Somewhat prepared



Minimally prepared



Not all prepared



Unsure



Poll from the The Soft Skills Gap live event. 733 total responses.

POLL QUESTION

How prepared is your college to work with employers to bridge a soft skills gap?

POLL RESULTS

Well prepared



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Unsure

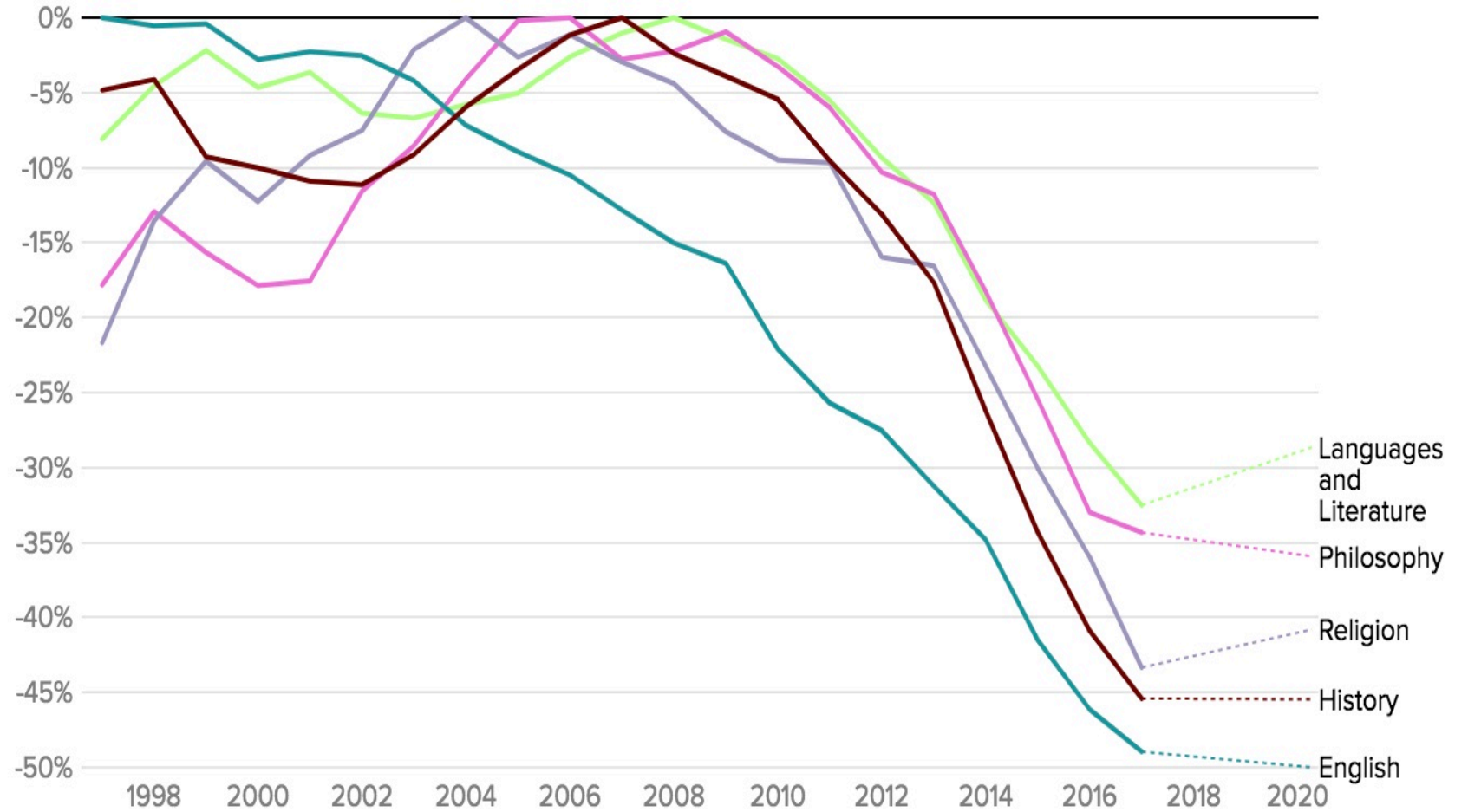


Poll from the The Soft Skills Gap live event. 452 total responses.



A National Challenge

Changes in Share of Humanities Majors in All BAs at U.S. institutions, Relative to Peak



Top 10 Skills in 2020

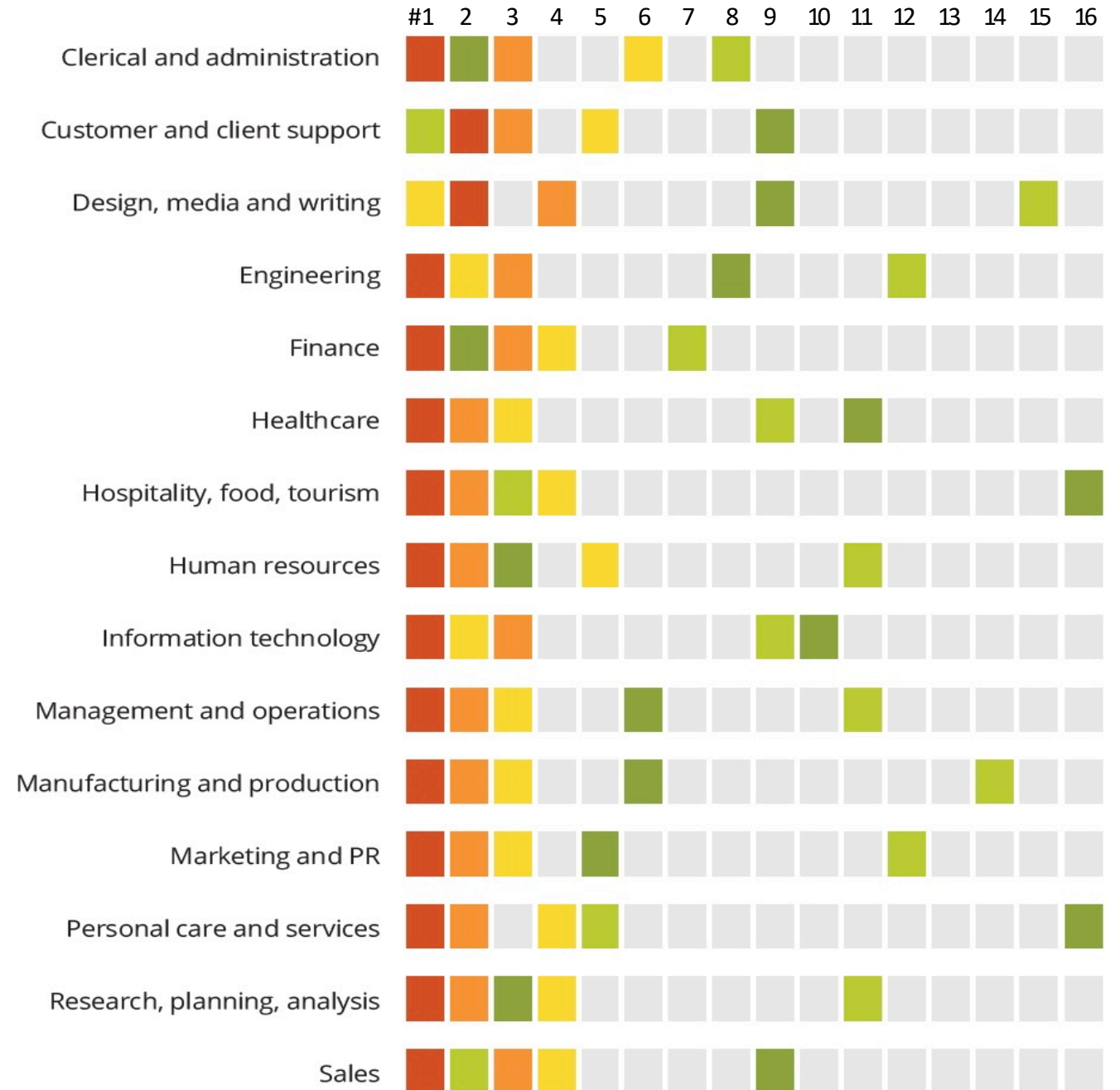
1. Complex problem solving
2. Critical thinking
3. Creativity
4. People management
5. Coordinating with others
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Judgement and decision making
8. Service orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive flexibility



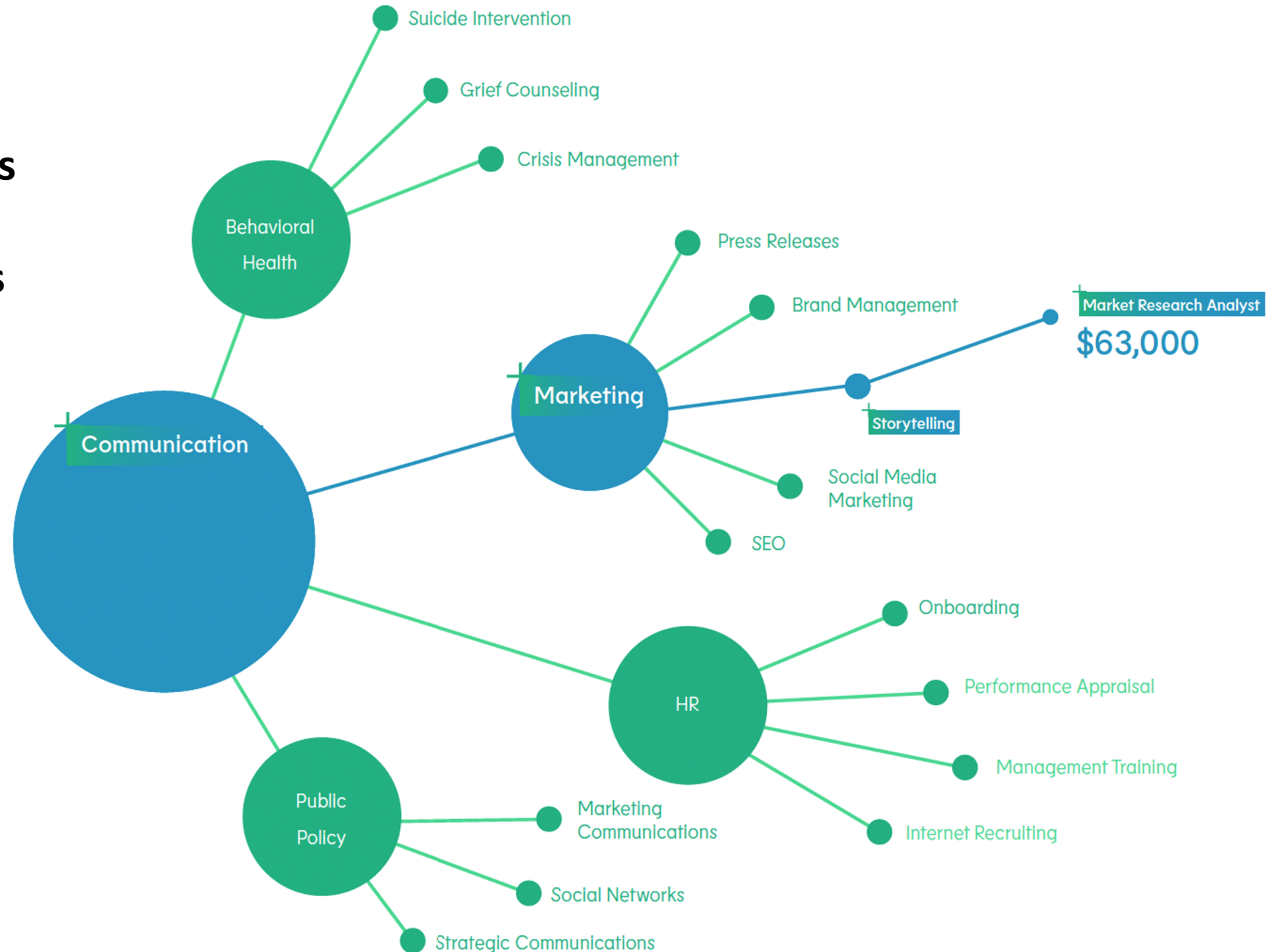
Popular Skills Across industries

The top few skills that employers rank as most important are common across all industries. Communication, writing, and organizational skills are listed as requirements for almost every job posting.

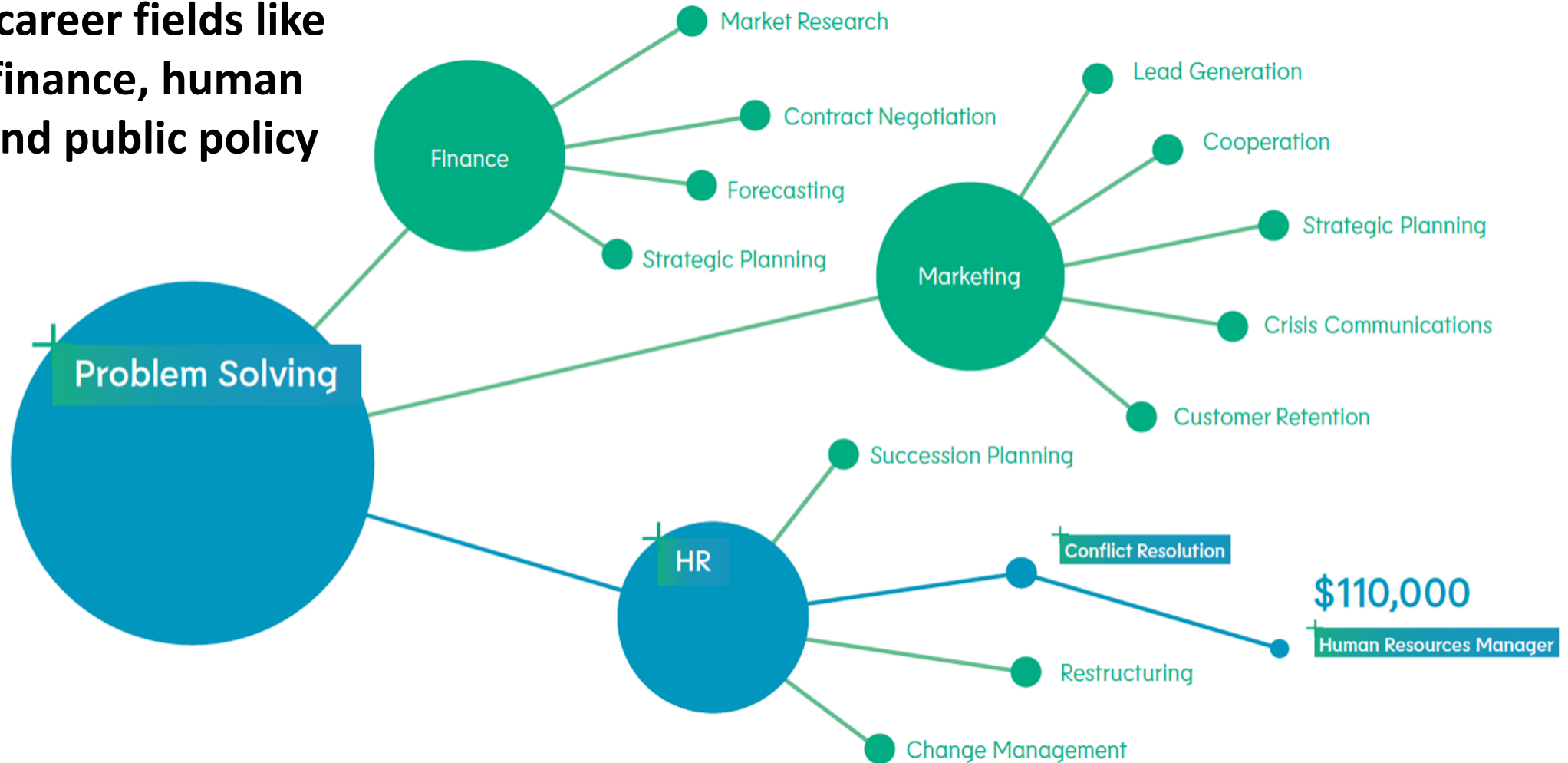
- #1 ■ **Communication skills**
- 2 ■ **Organizational skills**
- 3 ■ **Writing**
- 4 ■ **Customer service**
- 5 ■ **Microsoft Excel**



Liberal arts graduates translate and apply communication skills in different career fields like marketing, finance, human resources, and public policy



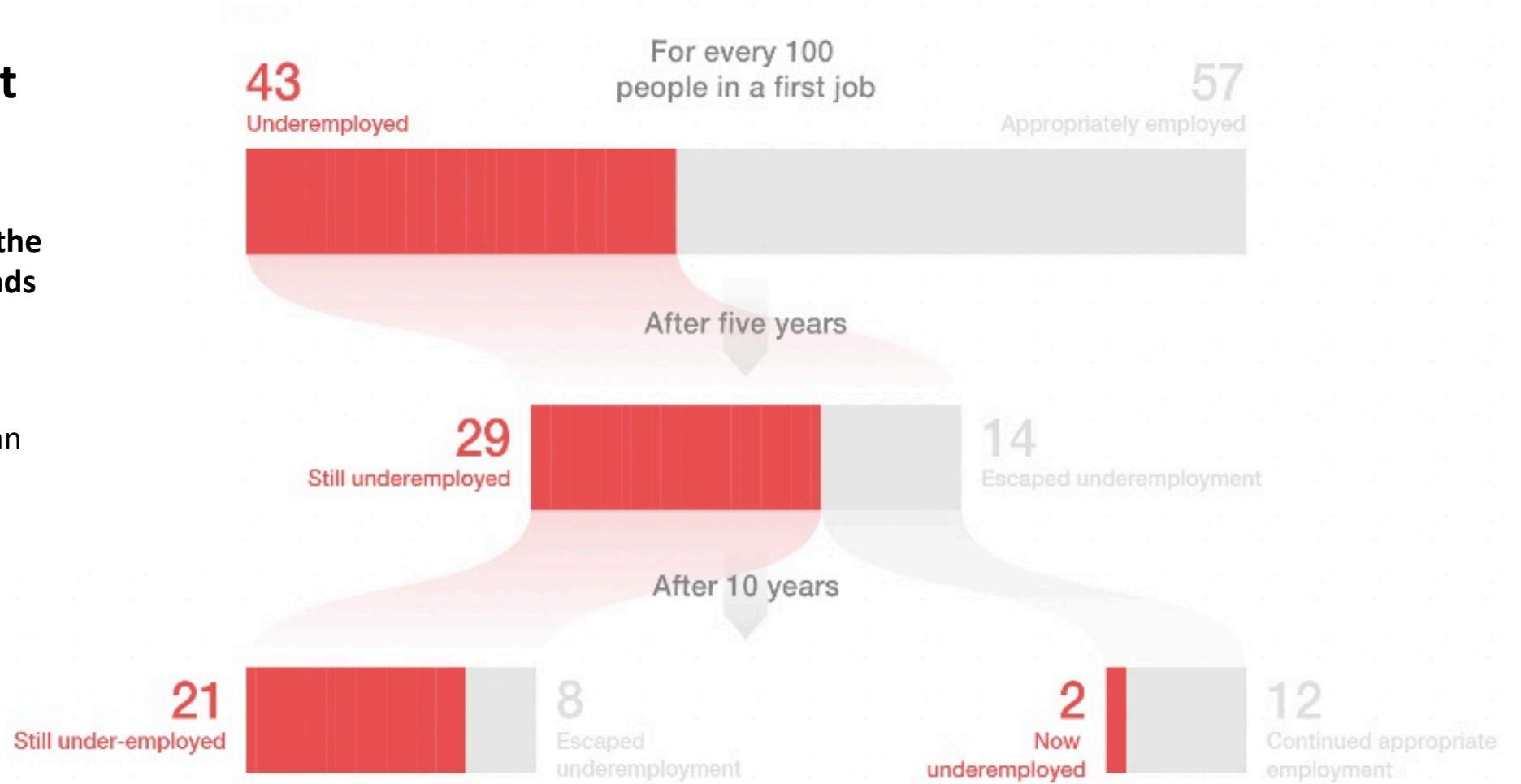
Liberal arts graduates translate and apply problem-solving skills in different career fields like marketing, finance, human resources, and public policy



The Permanent Detour

Underemployment's Long-Term Effects on the Careers of College Grads

Underemployment at the start of a career can leave new graduates disadvantaged





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