

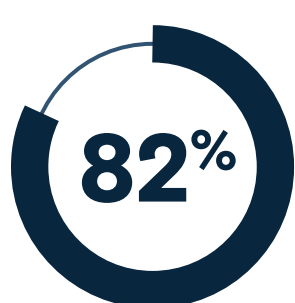
2021 workforce education trends that may surprise you:

Career paths most needed for the future of work

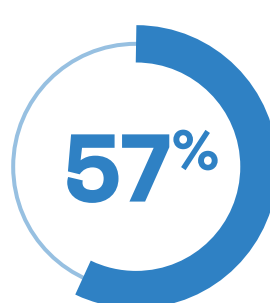
TREND #1

Biggest challenge = developing leaders

While everyone's talking about upskilling, it comes in second as a top challenge to **developing future leaders**.



of senior leaders said developing future leaders is the most pressing challenge their company faces



cite upskilling employees to fill high-demand functions

TREND #2

Soft skills > tech and data skills

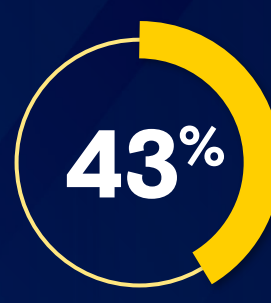
Technology and analytics skills are essential for the future of work, but soft skills, which some now refer to as “durable” skills, top the list of most immediate needs. These top skills cited as strategically important include:



General leadership skills



DE&I-related skills



General communication skills



Data and analytics related skills



Specific technical skills

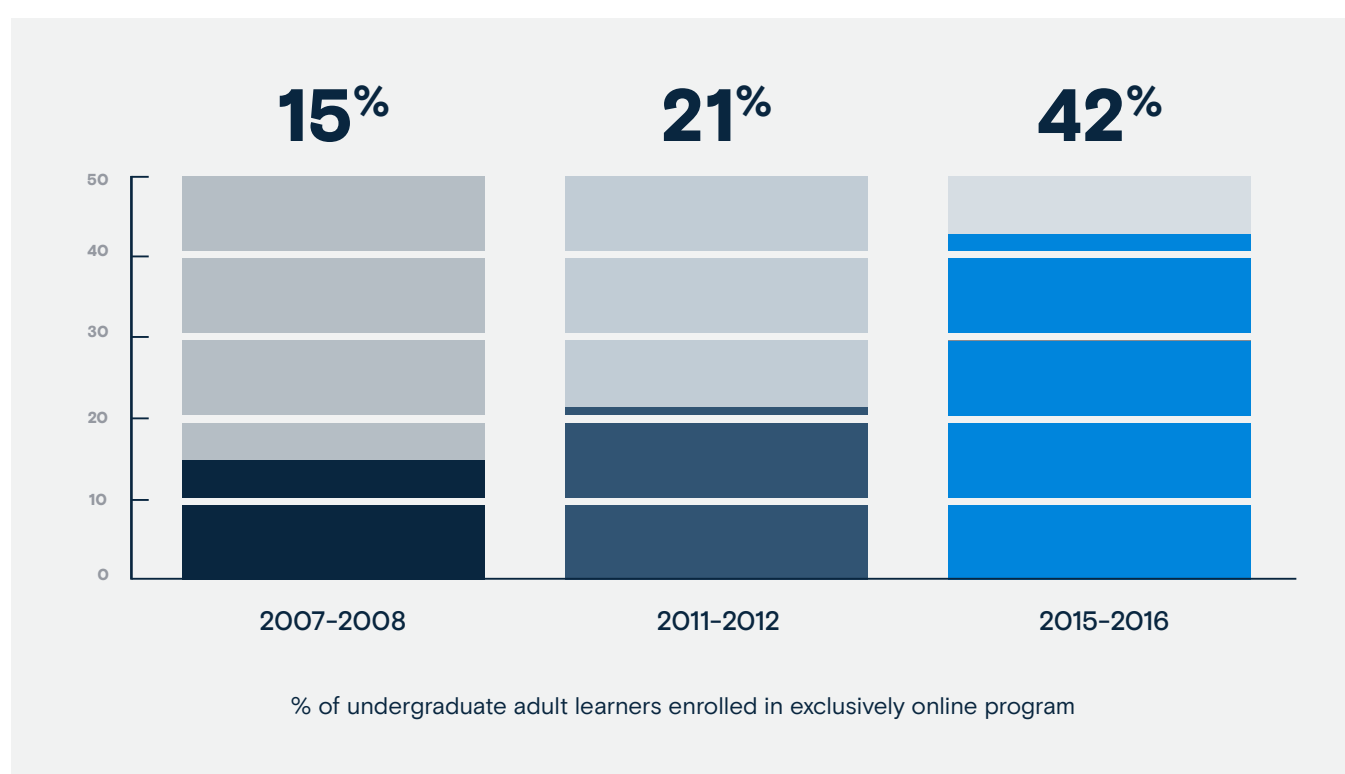


Advanced technology skills

TREND #3

Pre-COVID-19 data showed adult learners accelerating the uptake of online programs

While overall post-secondary enrollment has declined slightly, online enrollment increased by 4% per year since 2013, primarily driven by increasing adult learner uptake, with growth expected to continue moving forward.



What about the impact of COVID-19? Overall, undergraduate enrollment decreased across all age groups from fall 2019 to fall 2020, according to the National Student Clearinghouse ([NCS](#)).

The takeaway:

We find increasing demand for an educated workforce while undergraduate enrollments show declines. This disparity highlights the **opportunity for workplace education programs to provide employees the tools to succeed and employers the skills they need to win** in the marketplace.

Make an impact today

InStride is the premier global provider of strategic enterprise education for employers who want to achieve transformative business growth and social impact through the power of education.