Whenever there is change, there is opportunity. With report after report showing the world of work changing faster than ever today, it’s fair to assume there’s more opportunity than ever.

The challenge? It isn’t easy to know where that opportunity exists. If only some organization with the resources necessary to answer that question could release a roadmap...

Well, consider this is your roadmap. Using a combination of LinkedIn data and survey results, we determined both the soft and the hard skills companies need most. And then we provided lynda.com courses that teach those skills, which are available on Lynda.com as underneath listed.

Enjoy. Learning these skills will help you stay ahead of change and make the most of all that opportunity in 2018.
THE SOFT SKILLS COMPANIES NEED MOST – AND HOW TO LEARN THEM ON LYNDACOM

First, let’s start with the skills all professionals should learn, regardless of what they do. These are “soft” skills, although in practice they are anything but: 57 percent of leaders say soft skills are more important than hard skills.

So, what are the soft skills companies need most in 2018? To find out, we surveyed 2,000 business leaders and asked them the soft skills they’d most like to see their employees learn. Here’s what they said:

1. Leadership

**Recommended Courses:** Body Language for Leaders, Strategic Thinking, Leading Without Formal Authority

2. Communication

**Recommended Courses:** Communicating with Confidence, Influencing Others, Giving and Receiving Feedback

3. Collaboration

**Recommended Courses:** Effective Listening, Building Business Relationships, Finding Your Introvert/Extrovert Balance in the Workplace
4. Time Management

**Recommended Courses:** Managing Your Time, Creating Great Workplace Habits, Getting Things Done

**The Hard Skills Companies Need Most — And How to Learn Them**

Next, it’s time to go to the hard skills companies need most. Using LinkedIn data from our 500+ million members, we identified the skills companies were working the hardest to fill. We coupled that with related jobs, their average US salaries and courses that teach those skills (which are free to take for all of January 2018).

1. Cloud and Distributed Computing

**Recommended Courses:** Amazon Web Services: Storage and Data Management, Cloud Architecture: Advanced Concepts, Cloud Computing Career Paths and Certifications: First Steps

2. Statistical Analysis and Data Mining

**Recommended Courses:** The Essential Elements of Predictive Analytics and Data Mining, Data Science Foundations: Fundamentals, SQL Essential Training
3. Middleware and Integration Software

**Recommended Courses:** ASP.NET Core: Middleware, Learn API Documentation with JSON and XML, JavaScript and JSON: Integration Techniques


**Recommended Courses:** Building Angular and Node Apps with Authentication, Creating Your First RESTful Spring Boot Microservice with JPA, React: Replacing Legacy Projects

5. User Interface Design

**Recommended Courses:** UX Foundations: Prototyping, Creating a Design System with Sketch, Planning a Career in User Experience

6. Software Revision Control Systems

**Recommended Courses:** SVN for Java Developers, Git Essential Training, Learning Software Version Control

7. Data Presentation

**Recommended Courses:** Learning Data Visualization, Data Visualization: Best Practices, Learning Graphic Design: Presentations
8. SEO/SEM Marketing

**Recommended Courses:** SEO Foundations, Introduction to PPC with Google AdWords and Bing Ads, Learning SEO Tools

9. Mobile Development

**Recommended Courses:** Android Development Essential Training: Create Your First App, Advanced iOS App Development: Core Motion, Prototype a CRM Mobile Application with Framer

10. Network and Information Security

**Recommended Courses:** IT Security Foundations: Network Security, Data-Driven Network Security Essentials, Implementing an Information Security Program

11. Marketing Campaign Management

**Recommended Courses:** Create a Go-To-Market Plan, Building Your Marketing Technology Stack, Marketing Analytics: Segmentation and Testing

12. Data Engineering and Data Warehousing

**Recommended Courses:** Data Science Foundations: Data Engineering, SQL Essential Training, Transitioning from Data Warehousing to Big Data
13. Storage Systems and Management

**Recommended Courses:** Microsoft Azure: Design an Application Storage and Data Access Strategy, Google Drive Essential Training, Linux: Storage Systems

14. Electronic and Electrical Engineering

**Recommended Courses:** AutoCAD Electrical Essential Training, Learning MATLAB, Electronics Foundations: Semiconductor Devices

15. Algorithm Design


16. Perl/Python/Ruby

**Recommended Courses:** Learning the Python 3 Standard Library, Python Design Patterns, Python Projects

17. Shell Scripting Languages

**Recommended Courses:** Learning Linux Shell Scripting, Perl 5 Essential Training, Learning PowerShell 5
18. Mac, Linux and Unix Systems

**Recommended Courses:** Learning Linux Command Line, Cert Prep: Red Hat Certified System Administrator (EX200), SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Essential Training

19. Java Development

**Recommended Courses:** Kotlin for Java Developers, JSON Processing with Java EE, Java 8 Essential Training

20. Business Intelligence

**Recommended Courses:** Power BI Pro Essential Training, Balanced Scorecard and Key Performance Indicators, Financial Forecasting with Big Data

21. Software QA and User Testing

**Recommended Courses:** Programming Foundations: Software Quality Assurance, Penetration Testing Essential Training, UX Foundations: Usability Testing

22. Virtualization

**Recommended Courses:** Learning VMware vSphere 6.5, VMware vSphere: Upgrade a Deployment to vSphere 6.5, Windows Server 2016: Configure Hyper-V
23. Automotive Services, Parts and Design

**Recommended Courses:** Learning CATIA v5, Alias Essential Training, Insights on Automotive Design with Veejay Gahir

24. Economics

**Recommended Courses:** Managerial Economics, Applied Economic Forecasting with Big Data, Blockchain Basics

25. Database Management and Software

**Recommended Courses:** Database Foundations: Administration, Microsoft SQL Server 2016: Installation and Administration, Oracle 12c Database: Administration

**Top Hard Skills Methodology**

There are thousands of skills that members can add to their profiles, so we grouped these skills into several dozen categories. For example, skills like “Android” and “iOS” would fit into the “Mobile Development” category. Then we looked at all of the hiring and recruiting activity that happened on LinkedIn between Jan. 1 and Sept. 1, equaling billions of data points, and identified the skill categories that belonged to members who were more likely to start a new role within a company and receive interest from companies. Skill categories that did not meet a specific threshold for membership were excluded from our analysis. See last year’s list.