Skills vs. Expertise - Understanding the Difference



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MyCareerByDesign - Beyond The Imaging Room™

Skills vs. Expertise - Understanding the Difference

Take your time. Go deep. Be honest. Your next level starts here.

| Skills | Expertise |
|--|--|
| Learned through training or experience | Built through repeated application and problem- solving |
| Often task-specific | Strategic, often cross-functional |
| Can be taught or replicated | Deeply personal and nuanced |
| Demonstrates what you can do | Demonstrates how you think and lead |
| Usually tied to a role or job | Can transcend roles and industries |

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Reflect:

10 people have the same skill, but each person may solve a different set of problems using that skill - Same skill, different application, different solutions.

How you use the skill, and the impact you make is your differentiator, not the skill itself.

Section 2: Skill Inventory

List 10 key skills you've gained throughout your career journey.

Don't overthink it - go with what comes naturally.

Examples: project management, data analysis, stakeholder communication, analyzing data, mentoring staff, resolving conflict, designing workflow, equipment troubleshooting, regulatory compliance, SPECT/CT imaging.

Your Skill List:

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Section 3: Extracting Expertise Choose 5 skills from the above list and reflect on how you've applied them in high-stakes, high-impact, or repeatable ways.

Think: challenges overcome, value delivered, or leadership demonstrated.



For each selected skill, reflect:

- 1. What complex problems have I solved using this skill?
- 2. What consistent results have I achieved with it?
- 3. How do others rely on me when this skill is needed?
- 4. What unique perspective or method do I bring?

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Section 4: Craft Your Expertise Statement

Skills become expertise when experience adds depth, pattern recognition, and impact.



Reflective Prompts:

- What's something you do so naturally, you forget it's valuable?
- What do people consistently come to you for, outside your job title?
- What do you know so well you could teach it without notes?
- What have you solved more than once that others struggle to figure out?
- What patterns or results show up consistently in your career?
- Who have you impacted the most, and how?
- What do people seek your advice or leadership for?
- What legacy are you already leaving ask for feedback from friends or colleagues?

| Example: |
|--|
| Skill: Stakeholder Communication |
| Expertise Insight: I led cross-functional teams through complex imaging protocol |
| changes; aligning physicians, technologists, and vendors, to reduce delays by 30%. |
| |
| Template 1: |
| I led (who you influenced) |
| through (what you did - the intervention); |
| (the result), |
| to (measurable impact) |
| |
| Template 2: |
| I bring deep expertise in, |
| with a track record of |
| I empower/lead/support |
| to achieve |
| through |
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| Template 3: |
| With proven experience in, |
| I specialize in |
| to drive meaningful outcomes for |
| by leveraging |

Section 5: Your Next-Level Moves

Now that you've clarified your expertise, what's next? Visualization!



Visioning Prompts:

- What new roles, opportunities, or industries does this open up?
- How can you align this expertise with your purpose and values?
- How would you introduce yourself differently if you led with expertise, not your job title?
- What conversations or opportunities would you say *yes* to?
- What kind of problems would you love to solve more often?
- What are you ready to stop minimizing or hiding?

Next Steps Action Plan: Respond to the the visioning prompts above

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Affirmation: "I honor the value of my lived experiences, my hard-won expertise, and the wisdom I've cultivated. I lead from who I am and the results I deliver, not just what I do." You are not just skilled. You are seasoned. Strategic. You're ready to lead - by design.

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to explore career transformation coaching designed for midto-late career medical imaging professionals ready to go from stuck to strategically redesigning their career with intention