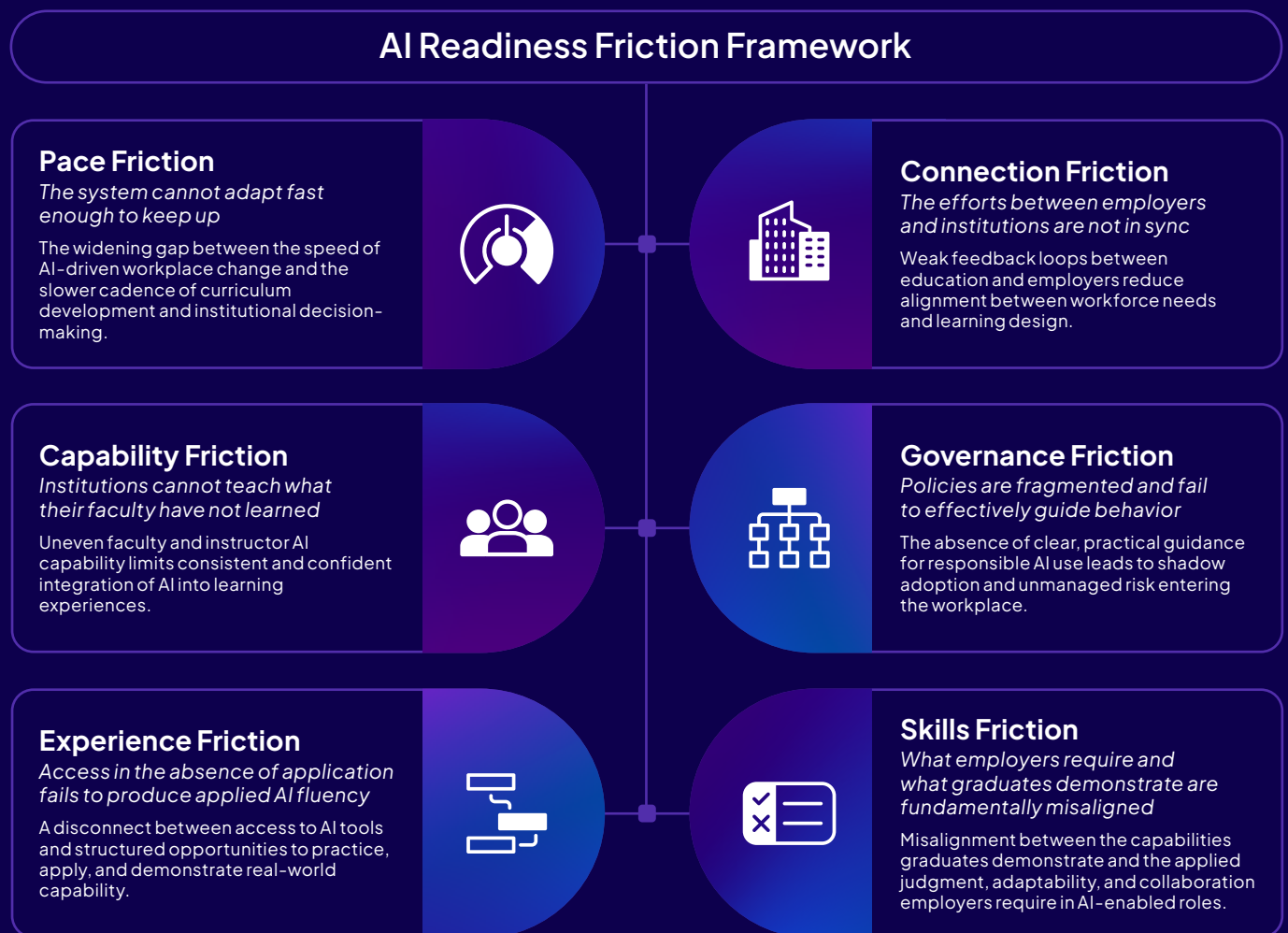


The AI Readiness Friction Framework

Understanding where to intervene to reduce friction and deliver AI-ready graduates

Both higher education and workforce leaders overwhelmingly agree that AI readiness matters. But agreement on direction has not produced alignment on execution. The gap between institutional intent and graduate capability is real and widening. This research identifies where it breaks down: six structural friction points that impede successful transition from learning to work. Together, they form the AI Readiness Friction Framework.



These frictions reinforce one another. Capability constraints limit applied experience; pace overwhelms governance; weak connections delay labor-market signals. The framework enables leaders to diagnose where friction is most acute in their context and target intervention at root causes rather than symptoms.



Reduce friction. Build the bridge.

AI readiness is not owned by higher education or industry alone. It is built — or broken — in the transition between them.

Read the full report: pearson.com/ai-readiness