

MAY 2024

Innovating Insurance Recruitment: The Rise of New Strategic Priorities

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Insurers are broadening their recruitment strategies to attract leaders with technical proficiency, customer-centric perspectives, and innovative mindsets.

The escalation of risks in the insurance sector is rapidly reshaping the operational landscape. New challenges—from technological advancements to climate change—are continually emerging, increasing in severity, and simultaneously taking center stage. For today's insurers, sustainable business growth hinges upon proactive change.

Innovative leaders can drive the transformation companies need for loss prevention and customer success. However, as the [talent shortage](#) looms, the demand for top insurance executives is skyrocketing. To navigate the challenging [market conditions](#) ahead, businesses must expand their insurance recruitment efforts in alignment with modern priorities.

Integrating Emerging Technologies

Over the past decade, the [growth of insurtech](#) has ushered in an unprecedented era of innovation and disruption. Automation has become a cornerstone of operational efficiency, and artificial intelligence (AI) is steering strategic underwriting decisions and data-driven risk management. Recruiting leaders with high technical proficiency is now a business imperative.

According to [McKinsey](#), demand for technological skills will increase 55% by 2023, signaling the pivotal role of tech talent in unlocking innovation. Beyond recruiting CTOs and CIOs who can manage [digital transformation](#) at a high level, organizations need leaders with experience in cutting-edge fields—data analytics, machine learning, software development—to *implement* key initiatives. With specialized knowledge, leaders can swiftly identify and capitalize on emerging technologies for risk mitigation, product innovation, and beyond.

Recruiting tech talent will certainly prove to be a challenge of its own, particularly as [64%](#) of employers report difficulty sourcing candidates with adequate IT skills. However, insurers can no longer afford to lag behind in the digital realm. Investing in tech-savvy leaders—by offering attractive compensation *and* crafting a work environment that is conducive to their success—will be key to hiring and retaining a strong leadership team.

Fortunately, the market for tech talent is rife with new opportunities. Following over 300,000 layoffs from technology companies in early 2023, [Deloitte](#) reports a growing pool of candidates seeking stability in alternate fields. Insurance companies that prioritize technical prowess over industry experience can expand their candidate pools while encouraging diverse

leadership perspectives, which can spur innovation.

Enhancing the Customer Experience

Modernizing insurance recruitment initiatives transforms more than internal processes. As the ubiquity of data grows, attracting innovative executives will help insurers enhance their customer centricity—a rising indicator of success in the insurance industry.

Policyholders are increasingly seeking providers that offer highly tailored products and support. A [recent Accenture study](#) found 58% of insurance customers would share large amounts of data to receive customized advice; 60% would do so to improve the speed and ease of claims processing. Insurers need data-driven executives and employees who leverage technology to craft and personalize seamless customer experiences.

However, effective CX leaders are, at heart, *human-centric* leaders—and an over-emphasis on technology usage in this area of business can harm recruitment efforts. Insurance providers must recruit candidates who think *across* the customer journey, recognizing the importance of human interactions at key touchpoints. Life insurance customers, for instance, rank agents as the [most trusted](#) source for insurance product information.

Aligning recruitment efforts with the critical need for CX means finding omnichannel thinkers who can uncover policyholder needs across the customer journey.

Driving Innovation Forward

The recruitment of modern executives and workforce leaders is only one piece of the talent strategy puzzle. Capitalizing on leading-edge talent requires companies to foster a culture of innovation. Senior leaders should be *encouraged* to experiment, drive fresh ideas forward, and learn from their failures without constant reprimands. In fact, when companies embrace risks—all while supporting both autonomy and collaboration—they are [60%](#) more likely to emerge as innovation leaders.

Companies can further support creativity in their executive teams by investing in their needs. Prioritizing technology budgets, for instance, not only supports organizational initiatives, but also attracts new, forward-thinking leaders—including those from tech-savvy younger generations as the insurance workforce continues to age.

Overcoming Insurance Recruitment Challenges

New recruitment strategies will require insurers to overcome challenging hurdles. For one, companies must realign job requirements with candidate skills as leadership roles evolve. Proper skills alignment can broaden talent pools—welcoming candidates regardless of their prior insurance industry experience—and prevent prolonged vacancies and decreased productivity.

Transforming insurance recruitment strategies to attract younger candidate pools will also be critical. Without sacrificing the human touch, businesses must identify optimal opportunities emerging technologies *within* the hiring process to streamline the hiring process. Inclusive hiring strategies, such as leveraging diverse recruiting teams, will also be critical as the U.S. population [diversifies](#).

Executive search firms will certainly play a critical role in elevating insurers' recruiting efforts. Experienced recruiters can collaborate with insurance companies to build strategic, long-term [talent roadmaps](#). Additionally, they can greatly expand their candidate pools, connecting insurers to a wide range of passive and active senior leaders.

More than ever, insurance companies need to leverage creative recruitment strategies to unlock innovative talent.

Entering the Future of Insurance Recruitment

In the dynamic insurance industry, businesses must continuously adapt their recruitment strategies. Competition for top talent is growing—and insurers must identify and prioritize the *skill sets* that will enable them to achieve their transformation goals. The right leadership hires and recruitment tactics can elevate innovation while supporting loss prevention and profitability in an increasingly high-risk industry.

How will your firm embrace creativity to broaden talent pools?