

Career Autobiography and Skills Inventory

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Autobiography:

Over the last 10 years, my professional work has been almost entirely unrelated to my field of study, consisting mostly of restaurant and warehouse work. Not that it has been useless; I've learned much about customer service, being reliable, and cooperating with a team. Outside of paid work, I have spent time working on personal projects. I began programming around 3 years ago, creating video game prototypes and other small programs. I also created a network in my room that's separate from the rest of the house and host a DNS, web server, and media server from there.

I'm currently pursuing AAS's in Network Operations and Cybersecurity. I've spent the last 10 years in something of a crisis over what to do with life. I've always known I want to do something other than unskilled labor but both couldn't decide on pursuing any one thing, and didn't have the confidence necessary to push myself into a more fulfilling career. However, after learning some programming, I realized that maybe I could enter the IT field and be successful. I'm not convinced I could be a really good programmer nor did I want to sit in a chair for 8 hours every day so, when I looked at LCC's catalog, I settled on studying computer networks. Mostly I just wanted something that would challenge me because working at my previous jobs always became agonizing with how mundane and repetitive they were.

Courses so far have ranged from being densely packed with information to being relatively easy, given that I came with some prior knowledge. Overall, I'm doing very well with a 4.1 GPA, and have been very excited about learning the material. Achieving a high GPA has been made easier due to most of the classes being online-based, to be fair. Many tests allow multiple re-tries and are not proctored. Many of them are also multiple choice, which I have mixed feelings about. Multiple choice tests can be easier because the answer is already

there, so I don't have to conjure it from my own memory banks, but also there's the typical "two answers that are very close to the right answer, a silly answer, and a correct answer" pattern.

I currently work in the music lab at LCC under Federal Work Study. This is around 12 hours per week and I'm responsible for assisting audio engineering students with various things like troubleshooting audio equipment/software or giving feedback on assignments. I also recently began working for the Institute for Health in the Built Environment at UO as a social media handler. I spend around 5 hours per week managing their website and Instagram/LinkedIn profiles, updating their news feed or posting about projects they're working on.

Skills Inventory:

As mentioned above, I acquired many 'soft' skills through my work history. While I hope to never have to work a purely customer-service position again, working those types of positions has taught me much about interacting respectfully and professionally with others. Conflict resolution was also a big part of that whether in minor scuffles with coworkers or being confronted by an angry customer. I learned teamwork, how to train folks, how to listen, and how to be responsible whether it be showing up early or ensuring that work was done on time and correctly. I also obtained some experience in managing, placing inventory orders, operating POS systems, and good sanitary practices... Lots of cleaning...

Most of the 'hard' skills I know have been learned through school or on my own time. As previously mentioned, I began learning computer programming on my own, starting with C++ then (realizing how incredibly difficult c++ is to start with) Python and C#. I would say I can program at an intermediate level, enough to make a game playable but not enough to plan out what I want to do beforehand and avoid a monumental amount of silly mistakes. I also have computer networking skills now from the two terms I've completed at LCC and can

successfully implement a small-medium size network with some security measures. I have some experience with server management, troubleshooting, Linux, computer hardware installation, command-line interfaces, HTML and CSS, software installation, and generally being resourceful in finding information.

Somewhat unrelated to anything, I've also picked up a lot of music production skills. I have experience playing drums, guitar, bass guitar, hammered dulcimer, and MIDI instruments with a keyboard/MIDI controller. I attended audio engineering school over ten years ago and learned how to record and mix music there, which I furthered in self-producing music over the subsequent years.

The first two paragraphs I believe show many relevant skills to my field of study, both the 'soft' and 'hard' skills. However, I recognize my need for improvement in all those areas before starting actual work in the field. I most want to focus on my skills in computer networking and scripting because those seem to be the most important. But also, I aim to hone my 'soft' skills too; being more social and open towards others, asking lots of questions, and being confident in myself as a whole.