

Growing up, I was surrounded by computers. My Mom is a front-end developer, and she owned her own company when I was born. I've been told that my first word was derivative of computer, as she would always point to it while raising me in her office/baby room. When I was 6, my parents bought me my first ever video game console, which is where my love of technology initially grew. While in elementary in middle school, I had a knack for not doing well in my History and English classes, though I made up for them with exemplary Science and Math scores. I would have this behavior persist while moving up to Highschool. The first class I ever did poorly in, was Statistics in High School. My teacher would pass out packets at the beginning of class, and they were due at the end. After they were passed out, my teacher would sit at her computer and watch Facebook Livestreams for the rest of the class. Suffice it to say, I learn well along as there is someone teaching. Because of my natural inhibition, I only took the one required art course, while filling the rest of my free slots with STEM-focused curriculums. My interest in becoming a developer came from my senior project, in which I made a senior project management web application, with functional user profiles, and hosting. Almost every part of the project was intuitive to me, and I loved being able to tweak the website to my ideal vision.

As mentioned previously, my biggest role model is my Mom. While growing up, my Dad spent much more time at work than my Mom. He would always complain about physical labor, and how 'Mom has it easy'. My Mom works remotely and has had ample time to be at home, and work on other side projects. She's the owner and sole developer of an online IDE platform for work with coding and sharing front-end designs(Codeply.com) and is one of, if not, the highest-ranked females on StackOverflow(<https://stackexchange.com/leagues/1/alltime/stackoverflow/2008-07-31/171456?sort=reputationchange#171456> User Zim) all on top of working full time as a front end dev lead. She didn't have it easy growing up, her father passed when she was 7, and her Mom hadn't worked previously. Through her studies in college, she was able to have the means to mold the life she wanted. Her drive and determination are admirable, and she's said previously that she doesn't like to focus on gender. I was driven by her to pursue education, although by choice did I have aspirations of working in the IT/CS field. Being part of 'Gen Z', I've been surrounded by screens my entire life, and having access to technology has been a big advantage in fostering my learning. I chose Analytics as my minor, due to my thinking that it will benefit my knowledge on automation. DevOps is specifically which specialization I've wanted to go down, and machine learning has picked up pace in the CI/CD realm.