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When I first got into JMU my first major was computer science. My sophomore year of high school I was the only one selected by JMU to come up there for a summer program dealing with coding. I knew I always wanted a job dealing with software development or design, but unfortunately wanting to code is different than understanding and being good at coding. My freshmen year I was not good at coding, I was in CS 139 and the pace was so fast I really didn't understand what I needed too, but I also gave up. I was at a point where I felt coding wasn't for me and it would just be better if I switched and that is what I did until recently. I knew I wouldn't be able to concentrate on TNS or IKM, but I did want to pick up coding again. When first coming into 252 I envisioned a basic level learning to peak our interest in coding. I assumed in some ways it would be like CS 139 and include multiple PA's due weekly. I knew I wanted to begin to master a language and the first step was creating an obligation for it and this class fit the build, plus it was required. I started watching tutorials I found on Youtube on multiple languages and python's features and actual language fit me the best. I wanted to be able to write a basic program in java and python without any hesitation or tutorial to help. Throughout the course we did go over some different languages, but I just took it upon myself to pay more attention to the videos that helped me personally, because I knew if I can master it my way then incorporating other views or languages shouldn't be too difficult. My goals never really evolved. They just got thrown off as we went to being online, just because personally it is so much harder to get up and motivated when you're doing the majority of your assignments in bed with some cocoa. My success to failure ratio was a little out of whack at first when I was trying to get used to the python language, but eventually after some strong focus that changed. There is a person on YouTube named Mosh and he makes really good tutorials for those who are at different levels in their coding experience. He has beginner coding knowledge ones, which I watch to get me adjusted at the beginning, and he even has some more advanced ones to show off your skills. I was able to use python in creating some guessing games, a car game and a personality trait game. These were fun to make and didn't have much error in doing them in the first place. Moving away from just python I was able to get the source code for a client and server messenger app. After getting the code my job was to make it my own and I'm still struggling with that. I started by changing the port, but then I got stuck and this has happened multiple times in the past. We are coders and we are expected to be able to not only solve problems, but look at source code and figure out ways to improve it making it our own. My question is how? For example my client server code, I want to be able to add a signature at the end so you always know who the message is coming from, but I don't know how to keep it at the bottom every time the prompt allows me to type my message. Another nice resource that I take advantage of is being able to go to codingbat.com when in need of some quick practice. When attending the job fair events here I try to go over a few practice problems on there to keep my mind sharp. This failure that I took and experience back to coding has led me to know now that I do enjoy coding, and I can be good at it. I fell down and came back with not only a whole new drive to code, but also a whole new perspective on it. When I first started the only feelings I developed for coding was anger and impatience not knowing if what I did was good enough, or when I messed up, how the hell do I fix it. Much different than now when for the past month I have dedicated at least an hour every day of the work week to code something, Mosh suggested about 2 hours,

but one is just right. This keeps my brain circulating with the language I code in so that will always remain fresh. I would definitely say that I feel more educated and motivated, a job isn't a job if you truly enjoy what you're doing and with more practice and understanding of what employers want I can see myself making a full career out of this. I can't say this class elevated me in extreme ways to get me to that point, but it did play a role. There are some certs I know I have to get in order to help me resume even more, but it all starts from an interest in coding. This semester I have gotten more familiar with github, vscode, python and other languages. Though we spend a lot of time outside of the physical classroom the goal of the class for me was met. Professor's job was just to peak our interest so that outside of class we would want to focus and go in depth with coding, and that goal was achieved. I have reached a great level of interest with many questions for the future. I have coded for some small fun games and started to expand that into bigger projects including my capstone. My final grade for completing the achievements selected and actually showing interest to learn more should be given a A.