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Rutgers Coding Bootcamp

I studied Fine Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design at Rider University. I ended up taking a lot more studio classes than I needed to, just because I was had a passion for Art. I really enjoyed classes like figure drawing, printmaking and 3D design. But I always wanted to do something with computers and technology so I went into Graphic Design, which was a little mix of both art and technology.

After School, I thought I would immediately get a job in my field since It was a booming industry. And with my research, almost every company needed a designer. However I was wrong and did not find anything until about 6 months of job hunting. I did manage to find work freelancing, I noticed how everyone around me wanted to start some sort of a business or if they had one already they wanted to market it more. So I had multiple requests from people to help build them a website or design a logo for them or just take photographs of their work for they can put it up on social media.

EZ Learning Zone

My first client was a school teacher who wanted to build a responsive learning website for kids and adults. Her goal was to try to reach kids and adults in third world countries who don't have a proper education and help them out. And what better way to teach than through a website. However this idea was more challenging than I thought, because she wanted to build a site from scratch not using a domain. From here I knew I needed to expand my skills as a designer and learn more about development. However I didn't have the time then, so as a designer, I was able to design a logo and webpages, just not code them.

Glass Temptation

Meanwhile, still trying to figure out what I wanted to do. And tired of job hunting. I ended up taking a few classes at the Corning Museum of Glass. And slowly started a fusing glass business with my mom — *Glass Temptation*. It was a nice break from life, but kept me motivated to do more and continue with design. Having a background in design, I designed our logo, website and started photographing our pieces to market on social media. From that I was able to build a small clientele in logo and website design.

- *The Weekend Famers*— Home based company that sells products ranging from soaps and chapsticks to wool rugs made out of fur from their very own sheep.
- *HijabFest*—HijabFest is an annual event held in New Brunswick— that shares uplifting stories about women along with fashion and business.
- *Design Surge*—Company that design flyers, posters, social media posts for various clients.

GUND

My big break as a Graphic Designer was when I got a job at GUND. I worked as a package designer. I solely created new package designs for one of their stuffed animal lines. The job mostly required drawing and design skills. It was a nice first real job, where I got to be creative and basically got to design whatever I wanted. Which was pretty awesome! Most of the jobs I had after did not give me that kind of leniency. They all pretty much had very strict guidelines.

Continuation of a lot of temp jobs...

Currently—

I am Running a small business, working to grow more, increase clientele, working on new designs and trying to showcase at different events.

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While I was working independently as a freelancer, Building a site was probably the project that was highly requested, not having much knowledge of HTML & CSS prior to this class I heavily depended on building a site from a domain. Hopefully now that will change due to my growing knowledge of web development.

Another HUGE reason being, while searching for a job, there is so much more demand for UI & UX Designer. And coming from a background of working multiple temp jobs, I needed to expand my skills beyond design and challenge myself and learn to code to further myself in my career.

Now a student at the Rutgers Coding Bootcamp, I have gone that extra mile, not only to learn basic HTML & CSS but in becoming a better Graphic Designer, also now given the opportunity to become a front-end and back-end developer.

My interest in development comes from being more successful. I don't want to fall behind because the markets changing and technology is changing. You can't stop learning especially in the world of technology. So for me to grow, I need to learn more about web development.

My former experience as a Graphic Designer revolves around the web. With technology taking over and there being less demand for print, everything revolves around the internet. My former experience will hopefully further enhance my skills to becoming a developer with a background in design.

From the few years that I have worked in my field so far, I have learned a few lessons along the way. I have probably learned more about myself and what I want and don't want, career wise. Working with people is number one! Working my first few jobs, I was definitely more reserved, less opinionated, had very little confidence in my work. But along the way a lot of that has changed. I have grown in more ways than I thought I could. I have learned to ALWAYS voice your opinion in your work. It may or may not be what your client wants or likes or whatever the

case may be; But, if you don't show confidence you're not going to get anywhere or at least not far.

I have worked in so many different fields in my line of work. I almost never had the same kind of job. Every company I worked in I tried to at least learn a new skill. So I cant keep growing as a designer.

Every job or task I had taken on during school and work was an accomplishment. I'm not one to submit something that isn't to my liking, in design you hit a few roadblocks. Somehow I always try to find a way that will satisfy me as a designer, especially if my name is going on with the design and most importantly satisfy the client you are working for.