

## **My Growth Mindset**

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I came here to the University of Florida, 1 year ago to do a Masters in computer science. I knew very little coding, despite 4 years of undergraduate study and 4+ years of work in the IT sector. I felt embarrassed about this, intimidated by how much my peers knew and scared about how it was going to impact my grades. I created a 4-month road map for Fall 2016 through which I would learn how to code every day. I eliminated negativity from my mind, but I was also clear that just learning will not suffice, I had to apply it to earn good grades too. Like the article states, having a growth mindset is as much about the results as much it is about improving intellect. I gave 2 hours to coding every day. By the end of my first month I felt a great improvement in my own skills and told myself, I am growing, just not “yet” there. I consulted my classmates for any major or silly doubt I had without fear of judgement. Every completed assignment gave me joy, every problem solved gave me hope. During November I joined “Code-Path @UF”, a peer-learning group created to solve common coding questions asked in interviews. This was a steep learning curve. At the end of December 2016, I had a GPA of 3.1. Although not a high GPA, but I was happy how far I had come, even helping others in group projects. Mainly I had lost my fear of coding. That was important to tell myself that I could do this, and that became the theme of my growth and learning. A year with such a mindset, has helped clear up many fixed notions about what I thought I cannot do.