

I know I still have a lot to learn, but my training as a software engineer has prepared me to learn what I need to succeed in this role.

I believe that the two most important things for being an effective professional are creativity and perseverance. With these two things, every other standard of excellence can be reached. I hope to show you some examples of these two traits reflected in me.

Perseverance

This word means much more than hard work or diligence. It means keeping commitments, performing duties without becoming discouraged or burning out. During the pandemic in 2020, I was in a position where I had to finish my Junior year of college online. The extreme change in dynamic halfway through the semester caused me to consider delaying some classes, however I had committed to myself to finish my degree by 2021. I decided to honor my commitment and stay on course. The transition was as hard as I expected, but I was able to find the motivation in myself to complete the semester with good grades.

I graduated in April 2021 with a BS in Chemical Engineering, then went into the field of Chemistry. As a contracted chemist, I occasionally have deadlines set by customers that feel unreasonable at first glance. Perseverance means trying to meet those deadlines but understanding there is a limit to your effectiveness. My team and I have worked overtime and nights to try to meet deadlines that we didn't meet. Perseverance is also understanding that if you miss a deadline, you keep working anyway.

Creativity

I have always looked for ways to increase my creativity in work and my personal life. I believe that every advancement made in software engineering in the past decade has had more to do with creative problem solving than technical ability. At work as a chemist, I pursue outside-the-box ideas on how to save time and improve processes. When considering personal projects to attempt, I try to come up with the idea fully independent of other people. Some of these projects include: a balancing robot, an electric ukulele with lasers for strings, an alarm clock that requires a code to deactivate, a bicycle hand warmer powered by braking, an app that compares friends' taste in music, and an app that shows result data for short-term stock market strategies. Many of these projects are unfinished, some are finished but not production-worthy, and some have already been released.

If you want to ask me any questions about my experience, I would be happy to explain more. I expect to hear from you soon.

John Pearce