

Hey job-seekers! I just had a conversation that made me want to share a little info about QA and why I believe it is a totally valid career path that you might want to consider looking into (if you haven't already.) One of my instructors tried to dissuade us from going into QA if we could avoid it, saying our coding skills would go soft, but I later had some good talks with a friend of mine who is a QA manager, and she reassured me that QA Automation is absolutely legit code-writing, unlike manual testing, and her explanations encouraged me to start seeking positions in Automation in addition to seeking Development jobs. I am so glad I did - I have found my niche!

What I do is called Test Engineering, and the work I do on my team's project (when I'm not in meetings and such, of course) is 100% coding. The only difference between me and a Developer is that instead of writing code for an application that a client will interact with, I write code that pulls apart that application on every possible level and uncovers bugs, slowdowns, etc. While I am not developing an end-product, my job is still very valuable and requires plenty of skill - and I could absolutely not do this job without the skills and concepts I learned at Prime.

One thing I really love is that I get to have my hands in the entire project, from view to database, and end up getting a deep knowledge of the app as a whole, versus many of the Developers on my team who are often limited to knowing only the sections they are working on. And unlike the Devs, I'm not limited to focusing on coding the Happy Path, I get to flex my creativity and write tests for all kinds of insane edge cases to see what doesn't work or makes things break. Again, this happens in every part of the code, not just on the view, and in fact I managed to teach a couple of my teammates some things about APIs this week!! Another thing I love is that QA is a little bit like professional nit-picking, and I'll admit this suits my personality perfectly (hey, someone's gotta do it!) So, If you love writing code, tearing things apart and learning more about them, and then helping improve them, you may really enjoy it too.

QA Automation. It's totally legit, and don't let anyone ever tell you QA is not as good as Dev.

-Amber