

Maxine P.

Jr. Graphic Designer

July 2017 - Works at: FactSet Digital Solutions in Norwalk, CT

General Field of Work

Graphic Design

Undergraduate Education

Western Connecticut State University for Art/Graphic Design
Minor: Several computer science courses

Undergraduate Non-Academic Interests: Dance

Graduate Education

No reply

Professional Societies or Organizations

No reply

What high school academic interests led to your college & career path?

In high school whenever we had projects I really cared about how my presentations, posters & powerpoint, looked. I wanted everything to look nice, be straight on the board, easy to read and interesting look at. I knew I needed to go to college after high school but didn't know what I should study. My dad, actually, suggested graphic design to me. I had no idea what it was and never took an art class in high school but after my first drawing class at WCSU I felt good at creating and having a good eye and was excited to pursue the path of design.

Please briefly describe your path to your current job

After graduation and a long vacation I began my job hunt. My best friend, who also studied design, graduated before me and gave me a list of helpful websites for creatives to search for jobs. Applying to jobs was a full time job itself. I had my resume written and designed from

senior year but during the application process it was needed to write cover letter specific for each job. I wrote one as a template and tweaked it for each application. I also applied to a staffing agency that job searched for me called Creative Circle. The first interview I went on was the result of me applying to a craigslist job ad. I didn't get the job, but got interview experience! The second interview was through Creative Circle and I nailed it. They decided they wanted me to work for them five minutes after I walked out the door. I currently work as a freelance Graphic Designer at my very first job after college. I've been here 10 months.

What are a few things that you like best about your job?

I'll start out by saying the company I work for is very cool. They are a huge corporate global company and offer several perks to their employees. We get free drinks, coffee, and snacks in the kitchen that is restocked everyday. We also get a lunch stipend four days a week so lunch is mostly free. There is also a Starbucks downstairs. Since this is my first job out of college I really had no idea what to expect. There have been some highs and lows for me working here, but everything is a learning experience. I have learned some skills in my practice but have mostly learned about myself. I have gained experience working in an office setting, learned my place in the company and on the team, learned some social skills and how to be a good and dependable teammate.

What are the most important technical skills needed in your job?

Being proficient in the Adobe Suite, specifically InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator. Also how to be adaptive and be efficient in programs that you may not be as skilled in (for me Word and PowerPoint.) Having a good eye for design is also an important skill.

What are the most important non-technical skills needed in your job?

Positivity, patience, creativity, inspiration. Dedication, motivation, drive. Time management, communication, prioritizing.

What are some of the most challenging aspects of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is feeling like I am not important. I am a Jr designer and at a lower level where my creative voice doesn't matter, my job is just to produce materials from templates. There are times that I do get to be creative so it keeps me going. Another struggle I have is feeling connected to my company. As an artsy person I am not interested in the financial and digital world that I work in. This is how I know my first job out of college is not my forever job.

Any advice for students about to begin their college career?

My best advice for job searching is to have a career in mind, go for it and don't be discouraged

by the steps you take to get there. Every step is a learning experience and an opportunity for growth.
