Software Packaging Engineer

Eddie Jackson

Kaplan University

CS123: College Success Strategies for Professional and Liberal Studies Professionals

Unit 9

Greetings and salutations to students, professors, and professionals everywhere! I am excited to be summarizing my "CS123: College Success Strategies for Professionals" class for you. The last 9 weeks has been an adventure to say the least, and it is really only the beginning of a wonderful, educational journey. On day one in the online class, I started learning what it meant to be a successful student. From career success, to personal management strategies, and from study strategies, to research tools, I gained important information that will help me succeed as a student. This paper is about three particularly important topics we covered, and why they are so essential, not only to academic achievement, but also to gaining professional skills that I can carry with me into a career. The three topics I have chosen to elaborate on are the interview we gave (which helped us define career options for ourselves), learning styles and skills that any successful student possesses (learning styles and skills that transcend merely academic practicality), and what it means to be a professional and carry oneself from education into the working force.

The first topic I would like to cover is the interview. In unit 5, we were asked to give an interview to a person with a job we would be interested in. The interview was setup to teach us a few things. One was to give me insight into a possible career choice (focusing on common interview questions to help us evaluate a job position). And two, was to confirm particular and specific skill sets that I may need to qualify for the prospective career. Three of the thirteen questions I asked where: What would you say are your key computer and IT skills are, how do you stay abreast with the ever changing technologies, and do you have computer related certifications. Each question I asked really helped me understand what the career choice was about and what it would take skill wise to make it in the technology industry. I was able to resolve several questions about the educational demands, company demands, as well as the type

of personality that is required for Information Technology industry. All-in-all, the interview was quiet informative and I was able to obtain the information I was looking for.

The second topic I will elaborate on will be learning styles and skills. From unit 6, I learned about visual, auditory, and kinesthetic strategies for studying. From other units, I learned about skills that any studentor professional just cannot do without. Skills like personal management strategies, study strategies, how to research, settings goals, and finally critical thinking skills. The learning styles were particularly interesting to me because I became aware that I was a kinesthetic learner (or hands-on learner). The hands-on approach in the IT world is vitally important because of the large amount of technology that I would be responsible for. The fact that official training will not always be available to youmeans that sometimes you have to learn by doing; so the kinesthetic strategy really works for me.

The skills that we reviewed throughout all the units where universal skills, and all students and professionals can carry them all the way through college into their careers. Some of skills I know I will need will be settings goals and research. As an IT professional and a student, you are expected to be able to set goals and meet those goals, from writing papers to completing projects, you need goal settings skills. So knowing how to organize information into obtainable goals is a highly rated skill. Another great skill for me to have is the ability to research. The research method from unit 8 describes the research method using the process of physical observation, analyzing your observation, forming suggestions to improve the process, making predictions, conducting tests, and implementing processes. Every teacher and employer requires you to do a certain amount of research, and knowing how to utilize the research method will be a valuable asset in my academic and professional arsenal. In the end I learned skills and learning styles can really affect your success as a student and a professional.

The third topic I would like to discuss is professionalism. Integrity, educated, honest, well-dressed, politically correct, are just a few terms that come to mind when I think of what it means to be a professional (and we assessed all of these in the Kaplan Online Success class and more). Each of these terms or words definitely describes what it means to carry oneself respectably and professionally. What does professionalism mean to me? Professionalism can mean many things, but what I think it means is having the right personality for the right job. Usually if a person loves their job, has the right skill set to perform that job, and has the professional attitude to go with it, they will be successful; they will be unstoppable. Of course we could easily reverse that and say if a person does not have the right skill set or personality or professional attitude, they will be unsuccessful. I believe with the type of responsibilities that would be assigned to me in my chosen career as an IT professional, I will be in perfect alignment for the professional world. Some of the professional attributes that I will be required to possess are integrity, being well-dressed, being compliant to business practices, as well as educated in my field of expertise. I also believe that being associated to professional organizations, like IEEE and MSDN can only me in my career endeavors. Professionalism means a lot of things, but most of all it means putting your best foot forward.

In conclusion, I would like to say how much I enjoyed the class and how much I learned. Through the interview process I learned what it takes to make it inside an organization; learning the educational requirements as well as the interpersonal skills that are required for the job. We also assessed great skills like setting goals and research. These are skill that any student or the budding professional can utilize on the road to success. And finally, we brainstormed what it means to be a professional and such values are important. By the end of the semester, I now have a well-rounded understanding what it means to be a successful student and how to

carry these skills and values into a career. I will leave you one final thought, would I have been

a better student with or without this class?

References:

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Interview with co-worker