

TYLER'S STORY



GETTING STARTED

GC: How did you prep for you application and interview?

T: Prior to the bootcamp admittance, I studied up on Udemy to familiarize myself with Java and worked part-way through a course to get early exposure to the programming fundamentals. After I got about 20% of the way though, I figured I should try and diversify my skill set and then worked through the Complete Web Developer course taught by Rob Percival. After finishing this course, I had a webpage that I was hosting on the internet and my very first domain at TechGuyTy.com.

GC: How hard was it to get in?

T: The process was very straight forward. Once I set my mind to getting through the bootcamp, Grand Circus made the process extremely painless.

GC: What was a life or lifestyle change you had to make in order to meet the bootcamp commitment?

T: I lived in Monroe at the time of taking my bootcamp so my entire sleep schedule got revamped. At my previous job I wouldn't have to be to work until 4PM at the earliest. I am not a fan of traffic, so I always head to Grand Circus early which means waking up at 6:30 am, leaving by 7am to hopefully beat the major traffic and get to GC an hour early. I also gained a new addiction to caffeine and would find myself bursting at the seams, so be careful with the free coffee.

CAREER CHANGE



GC: The job search thing – does that really work? Why or how did it work for you?

T: If you really want to get a job it will take more than just what happens in class. The best way I found was to go to meetups and then do some online-research on the other attendees and try to determine who would potentially help me get a job. Aside from that, I just tried to stay up on my skills after the bootcamp and kept in touch with alumni also looking for jobs.

GC: Why do you think your employer hired you?

T: I was hired for my ability to create things. Hands-down it was my portfolio of projects that I was able to demonstrate that got me the job. Another key factor was the culture fit. I came relaxed and confident while making a couple small jokes and everything seemed to go over well.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE



GC: What was learning in a bootcamp like?

T: Learning in the bootcamp style was MUCH better than traditional education. The curriculum was mapped out ahead of time which gave me the power to look ahead and get a jump start on each days activities. The piece I liked the most was that you were coaxed to collaborate with other classmates to achieve whatever coding task was at hand.

GC: How was the learning process managed?

T: We get face to face time with our instructor periodically throughout the bootcamp and are able to identify areas of strengths and areas for improvements. This time is not intimidating and was a great opportunity for me to learn more about my instructor as a human being.

GC: Was there time to ask your questions?

T: My instructor would double check with the class to make sure that everyone was on the same page multiple times per lecture. This allowed ample time to ask questions.

GC: Did you get enough one-on-one time?

T: The one-on-one time was sufficient for me but it really depends on what kind of learner you are. There was 1 person in my cohort that complained about their not being enough one-on-one time, but hand holding at this early part of a career transition won't build the grit one needs to succeed.

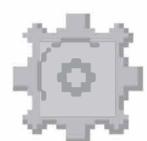
GC: Did you feel like you were being invested in as a student?

T: The instructors as well as the entire staff there does more than just supports the crew. These people are happily investing their time to help better the greater Detroit area and all of those that come through Grand Circus' doors.

GC: Were your teachers helpful and effective?

T: The teachers were extremely helpful and in the off-chance they weren't 100% sure on something, they would proudly admit they didn't know the answer, but would quickly research and find the information that I needed.

BOOTCAMP TAKEAWAYS



GC: Why did you end up feeling that the bootcamp was worth it?

T: Even if I walked away from Grand Circus still unemployed to this day, I would have the network of friends I made along the way as well as the resources they provide for alumni to help me get to where I need to be.

GC: What was something you learned about yourself through the bootcamp commitment?

T: It was during the bootcamp that I had realized I had the grit to achieve things I would have thought impossible. It seems extremely intimidating going from a Pizza delivery driver to a software engineer in less than a year, but the support and atmosphere showed me my capabilities.