

CHELSEA'S STORY



GETTING STARTED

GC: How hard was it to get in? How did you prep for your application and interview?

C: I prepared for the interview as if it was a job interview, researching the company and planning answers to questions that I expected. I also reached out to former students to ask about their experience at Grand Circus.

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

C: The biggest adjustment was the financial change. Leaving a well-paying job to invest in a career change and not know when your next paycheck would be can be really scary. I was fortunate enough to be able to live with my parents during that time to alleviate some of the financial strain and along with some penny-pinching, I was able to make it work.

CAREER CHANGE



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

C: My job search was successful and I accepted a position the last day of bootcamp, but the process is still extremely stressful and discouraging. During bootcamp I applied to 65 positions and only heard back from five companies. A few things helped to make my search successful. First, I was able to start early. I had recently gone through a job search, so I already had application materials ready that just needed some tweaking. Also, I made my portfolio live as soon as possible and added projects as I completed them. Lastly, reaching out to my network was a big help. When I started bootcamp I let my family and friends know as well as posting it on social media. During bootcamp, I reached out to friends and former classmates to see if there were open positions at the companies they worked at. Having someone pass along your name can be crucial to breaking through the onslaught of resumes HR receives.

GC: Why do you think your employer hired you?

C: I believe that my employer hired me because leaving a stable career to take a chance in a different field shows ambition, a willingness to learn and the ability to pick up on new concepts quickly. I was also transparent with my employer that even after completing the bootcamp I still had a lot to learn and was excited about that.



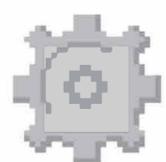
LEARNING EXPERIENCE

GC: What was learning in a bootcamp like?

C: I really enjoyed the fast-paced learning environment. You are able to apply a concept the same day that you learn it. Although, since bootcamp is such a condensed timeline, you are not able to go in depth on all everything that you cover, but you get a solid overview.

GC: How was the learning process managed?

C: I found that there was time to ask questions and instructors were willing to point you in the right direction when working on labs and projects. The GC team was very helpful during the learning process, but you don't get a ton of feedback on how you are progressing.



BOOTCAMP TAKEAWAYS

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

C: Overall, Grand Circus was an amazing experience that changed my life. Although, I may have been able to get where I am at through online courses, it would have taken much longer; GC was a great way to jump-start my career change into front-end development. I also was able to meet and collaborate with amazing people that I would have never crossed paths with otherwise.