

Darren's Resume of Failure

This is a resume of my 'failures' that led me to where I am today. Like RPG games, life is like a stream of endless setbacks and obstacles, but I attribute the experiences that I had to my growth.

★ DARREN LEE

CLASS: UX DESIGNER

24Y: 11M

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START



- video/computer game addict
- unmotivated, average student
- doing bare minimal

2006

Not admitted into middle school of choice

- ★ Avoided bad company, got into best class w/ favorite subjects to study triple sciences.

2009

[1st Crossroad] Did not qualify for Junior College of choice

- 3rd in entire school but still did not qualify (LIB4:10 LIR5:12).
- [Crossroads] On the fence between Junior College & Polytechnic; Still unclear what I wanted to do in life.
- Aspired to become a doctor to help others.

- ★ Decided on Diploma in Biomedical Science at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

2012

Got average grade for Final Year Project (B grade).

- ★ Learned importance of good communication, planning, and teamwork.

- aspired to become a doctor
- motivated student
- gained a lot of hands-on exp



2012

[2nd crossroad] Did not get into Med School (GPA 3.65).

- Did well (A's + B's) but not enough for Med school.
- Shadowed doctor at National University Hospital → Discovered not cut out to be Medical Doctor.

- ★ [Crossroads] Wish to help people still → Ambition change: United Nations as Policy Maker for a bigger impact → Degree in Economics.

2013

Did not into Economics, Singapore Management University (1st choice).

- Not scheduled for interview.

- ★ Decided on NUS to study Economics.

- learned important life skills
- groomed discipline and honor



2013

Did not get into Leadership School during National Service.

- Out of Course (OOC) on Day 5 of Basic Military Training due to fractured lower rib.
- Became a medic, learned valuable life skills, and returned to complete training.
- Became pretty unfit

- ★ Made use of free time by learning Japanese language and taking classes.

2015

Did not succeed in application for Nagoya University (Japan) scholarship.

- Applied but did not make next round

- Passed through preliminary rounds but only 1 awardee.

- ★ Studied local (NUS).

2016

[3rd crossroad] Poor performance in Economics

- Lagging behind in economics
- Unsure about continuing → Back at crossroads again
- Joined entrepreneurship pitching competition and won 2nd place for idea → Couldn't find people to start the idea → Decided on self-learn and change to Computer Science

- ★ Spent entire Summer 2016 learning basic web development (HTML, CSS, JS) and PhotoShop.

- Coded out portfolio and wrote letter to Dean of School of Computing with website.

2016

[4th crossroad] Did not transfer to Computer Science

- Failed transfer to Computer Science → Stayed in Arts, not sure which major → Chose Communications & New Media.
- Discovered the importance of school as an aid but self-guided learning is more important.
- Focused on design and frontend.

- ★ Applied for NOC and became 1 of 28 students for NOC Silicon Valley Batch 31 (NCSV31).

- amateur designer/web dev
- focused and eager to learn



2017

Internship with Arch Systems in Bay Area, CA

- Only designer in company and wanted to learn best practices.
- Relied on networking and design communities on Facebook and Slack to learn from experts.
- Saw the calibre of designers in the area and realized how long a way I've to go.



- self-taught UX designer
- highly motivated, avid learner
- aspires to be a better designer
- picking up more skills & knowledge

2018

Summer Internship hunt

- Applied to >70 internships in the US for summer but none offered.

- ★ Recruiter at Sea Group found me on LinkedIn and I became the first UI/UX intern in the company.

"Fail faster, succeed sooner."
- D. Kelley, IDEO