From Dream to Reality

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Since grade school we are asked what we want to be or what do you want to do career wise. I knew that my main goal was to help people, but the how I would not find out until after graduating high school. I did attend a trade school for telecommunications, so I’ve always loved computers or anything technical, also working on my grandfather’s 94 GT Mustang which is now my project car, I fell in love with mechanics and built many projects. Growing up in a military family I’ve wanted to serve my country, to help everyone to bring justice to victims of crime. In my life and throughout everyone’s life we all go through events that shape, mold and turn us into the person we are today from the good, bad to worse times. I will say that I’ve been through heavy and burdensome trails, this has pushed me to strive in difficult times and while at times I fell short and made many mistakes, I have learned and grew. At Old Dominion University I found my calling per to say in the field of Cybercrime. My dream was to help people my heart is broken for the victims of human trafficking and especially for the children in an ever growing violent and disgusting crime of child sex trafficking. Using the skills I have learned at ODU from, ethical hacking, data reconnaissance, criminal justice, law, digital forensics, military and government fundamentals, financial, micro and macroeconomics etc. I have used my skills to even aid in a DHS involved case and bring down a child predator successfully. In my professional and educational journey, I have now turned a dream into a possible reality.

# Youth love for technology grows.

Growing up I played with a lot of do-it-yourself robotic toys, racing games, learning code and programing with java and kali Linux. I’ve always been interested with technology and tried to learn and understand how the internet works. My father was in the military which for me sparked interest in the operations of military personnel. Being interested in how they operate and how secret missions are carried out. In grade school I attended chrome club which was about robotics and how technology can change the world. I went to the ATC (advance technology center) when I was in high school and studied telecommunications. I went to district and state championships in multiple occasions winning first place and second place in the state of Virginia. I learned data network cabling, fiber optics and satellite fundamentals. There I learned the use of electronic equipment for the transmission of data, speech, and video this is known as telecommunications. Telecommunications businesses handle a variety of duties, such as. System functionality Network traffic is tracked, system performance is assessed, and network problems are fixed by telecommunications engineers. Network architecture Data communication networks that satisfy the requirements of their companies are planned, designed, and implemented by network architects. In order to determine future demands, they also monitor the network and carry out network modeling operations. I also since I was little worked on my Grandpas Mustang which is now my daily/ project car. I’ve always been into mechanics and have built various vehicle builds. Since my youth I have always been involving myself with the ever-changing technology and mechanical operations of various things. This of course sparked my interest and led me to attend Tidewater community college where I earn an associate’s degree in business management and administrations. Shortly after I enrolled to attend ODU for a bachelor’s degree in Cybercrime.

# Skills I learned ODU

While attending ODU for Cybercrime I was able to turn the love for technology and passion for helping people into skills and acquired knowledge needed to pursue a career in this field. Some of the courses I have taken are as follows which is necessary for my degree. CYSE 407 is a Cybersecurity Digital Forensics class. Digital forensics topics and technology are introduced in this course. The core methods and resources for gathering, analyzing, and storing digital evidence on PCs, mobile devices, networks, and cloud computing environments are taught to students. In order to report digital forensic results and create materials for court presentations, we have also learned to communicate this information both orally and in writing. CRJS 409 is criminal justice class this multidisciplinary course aims to familiarize students with the manner in which computers are used both during and after criminal activity. The principles of steganography and cryptography, as well as the instruments needed to carry them out, are taught and will also find, compile, and authenticate pertinent digital evidence using forensic tools. CRJS 319 is a criminal justice public and private security class, here I learned the setup of security systems in organizations and agencies, both public and private sectors. IT 450 is an information technology class which is the overview of database principles. Data models, database analysis, design and implementation, query languages, data security, historical development, and an introduction to business transaction systems are all covered. IT 451 Database administration is an overview of the concepts and procedures involved in carrying out the common database administration duties. This will also prepare for The Oracle Administrator Certified Associate (OCA) Exams, 1Z0-051 and 1Z0-052 might be prepared for using this course as a foundation. Advanced SQL statements, building schema objects, installation and configuration of databases, database architecture, performance tuning and monitoring, storage management, database security, user management, database connectivity, backup/recovery methods, and usage analysis are some of the topics that are covered. The main database management system (DBMS) utilized in the course is Oracle, while other programs are also used as well. We also get access to practical activities and practice opportunities. CRJS 462 criminal justice substantive criminal law This course deals with the major substantive concepts involved in American criminal law, including development of criminal law, elements of criminal liability, defenses against criminal responsibility, and descriptions and definitions of specific offenses. These are just a few classes that I have taken during my time at ODU. These skills I can use for my professional development in whatever career path I choose. While this is a small portion of the multitude of classes I have taken at ODU all of them are just as important for my development. ODU has helped me with achieving an education and turned my dream into a possible reality.

### Dream made possible

While life has definitely thrown me curveballs and has tried to at times completely turn upside down, through dedication, tears, late and sleepless nights I was able to turn the passion and dream I have to a reality. It has not been an easy task and many times I have wanted or felt like I couldn’t go on. Life has a way of bringing you down and it will if you let it. But coming to the realization that I am not just living for myself but for the children, and people I will be rescuing helping or brining closure to is what pushed me to continue. Living for something more then just myself more then my family more for a cause and for my country. ODU has given me the skills I need to turn a thought to turn a dream into a reality and I can not be grateful enough for this opportunity, thank you for reading and I hope to do my country proud.

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