

My studies at UMSL

After moving back to St. Louis from a brief period studying Ocean Engineering at Florida Atlantic University, I decided to study Computer Science at UMSL. I had only heard good things about the CS



program at UMSL. To my surprise, I discovered that the Computer Science department happened to specialize in Artificial Intelligence, which happened to be a deep interest of mine. I greatly enjoyed the program, including the curriculum and the professors. Also, my peers ended up being not only friends, but my first employees at the company I founded while enrolled in the program.

My work and life

While still attending the University, I founded a company called [Beanstalk Web Solutions](#) that specialized in Web Design, Digital Marketing, and App Development. The company is thriving and growing to this day. We recently hired our 14th employee. Since starting the company, six of my peers from the Computer Science department have worked with me. Three of them work here to this day. Our education from UMSL has been extremely beneficial. Not only can we leverage the fact that we have degrees in our industry, but many of the skills we learned are directly applicable. Our education in Computer Science also allows us to quickly learn new skills and new programming languages much faster than someone without the degree. Rather than only knowing how to implement techniques, we have a deeper understanding of the 'how' and 'why' behind all of the code.

Message to UMSL students

My best recommendation to current and future UMSL students would be to leverage the resources and opportunities that are available to you. Many, including myself, didn't realize the value of what was being offered until after graduating. The consulting and mentoring that you can get from faculty is incredibly valuable. After graduating, you may have to pay hundreds of dollars per hour to get the same advice that was once made available for free. Also, take your time at UMSL to learn as many skills in your field as you can. Your time becomes more sparse as your life progresses, so it becomes harder to pickup new techniques. Maximize your time at UMSL by staying fully involved and don't avoid asking for help when you need it.