

One Mans Tips and Tricks for Surviving Your Early Professional Career

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Abstract

Transitioning from University student to the face-paced life of downtown Calgary can be a daunting and intimidating experience. For me, not only was I moving to a new city, but also starting to work in an area I knew little about, and in an industry I knew even less about, and that I had very little experience in. Just starting out, when compared to many of my classmates, I was far behind the eight-ball. In the ever changing and chaotic world of the oil and gas industry, it seems that many new graduates are now faced with a similar situation to me.

I hope in this talk to share some of my experiences as a recent graduate, and offer some insight on how I applied the somewhat unconventional skills and knowledge obtained during my time as a University student to my first couple of years on the job. My path from Undergraduate student, to Graduate student, to full-fledged professional was different than some peoples, and was filled with many challenges, but I've found that each step has given me tools to draw upon, and have given me provided me with ways to make the transition to the working world easier. Things such as remembering the principles I learned in many of my early Undergraduate classes – especially ones from classes I thought were unimportant to my career – as they often become fundamental to your job. Remembering that learning is just as important as doing, and never fearing asking questions will get you far. Even things like the simplest explanation can lead to the best results can be a big help.