

LIFELONG LEARNERS WANT CREDIT FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE

You've written a go-to book in your field, have years of hands-on experience at your job, and hold academic credits from diverse studies pursued at multiple schools. But you need to pull it all together somehow to qualify for the biggest work project of your career.

Game designer Jonathan Weinberger did just that, and ended up earning his degree in technical management from DeVry University, an important achievement for personal and professional reasons.

Weinberger says. "From society's standpoint, a degree is important. Once I got it, everybody quit telling me I should. I just wanted to do it on my own terms and my student support advisor (SSA) at DeVry understood what I was going for right away."

What he wanted:

- as much academic credit as possible
- studies that were relevant to his computer programming career
- a focused pathway to earning a degree

"I contacted DeVry and basically said, I've written a book and I'm a published author in my field," Weinberger says.

"If I'm going to get a degree it's going to be something that will help me and something I don't already know."

He adds, "I was able to achieve both."

THE PERSONAL PATHWAY THAT WORKS

Weinberger's story is a familiar one to Amy McCann, assistant national dean at DeVry University, especially among transfer students.

"Gone are the days of waiting in line for the registration office. Once the applicant has decided to go to DeVry, they're immediately given an advisor who walks them

through critical components like academics and financial aid," McCann says. "We discuss all their options, be that an undergraduate certificate program, an advanced degree, or whatever, and determine what best suits that student. Then, we'll do an initial evaluation and let them know how many credits will transfer toward their program."

Money—or the lack thereof—also plays a part in the way DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management handle the transfer process. The student's time, finances and desired outcome are all taken into account when it comes to getting students the knowledge and degree they need.

In Weinberger's case, he was able to build on his past experience, and complete his Bachelor's degree in Technical Management in two semesters at DeVry. "I received proficiency credits on top of all the transfer credits from previous universities. It was interesting to take those classes, but also helpful that DeVry took my credits," Weinberger says.



THE STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER

“I had been a teenager trying to get my first job, and not having a degree held me back,” says Weinberger, who originally built off success on YouTube with a book that has become an industry standard, *Learn Unity Programming With C#*. “Already being a programmer, I wasn’t sure if I really needed to go to college for it.”

“That book gave me an opportunity to get my first job in the work field, with [The Cartoon Network’s] *Adult Swim*. One of the hiring managers discovered my book, saw I lived in Atlanta, and contacted me.”

Weinberger explains, “Unity wanted a one-of-a-kind course that helps new developers feel comfortable exploring their platform and developing games. As excited as I was, I wasn’t sure I could pull it off. But the management skills I learned while taking the senior project course at DeVry have been invaluable to me and were significant in helping me orchestrate so many people and project details.”

For just that reason, DeVry’s senior projects are designed to have students demonstrate their skills and expertise from their respective fields of study while solving real-world business challenges.

“The senior projects course plays an important role in the growth and development of our students,” said Andrew Crane, national assistant dean, DeVry University College of Business & Management. “Collaborating with a team, developing a solution to a real-life business situation and presenting their ideas helps prepare students for the workforce in a way traditional coursework does not.”

THE GRADUATE LANDS THE ROLE

“Now, I’m working directly with Unity, and have job offers coming in left and right. It feels good having top-level game studios wanting me to program for them. I get to partner with the engine that gave me a career before I even worked for Unity directly,” Weinberger says. “I’m building educational material to bring Unity to the masses by creating a set of courses to get people comfortable in developing games and applications with Unity.”

Weinberger was able to come to an exclusive agreement with Unity to create a series of courses. The first, “The Ultimate Guide to Game Development with Unity,” was released in November 2017.

Games are Weinberger’s primary focus, but he’s also creating courses dedicated to film, photography, mobile games, monetization strategies, and real-world expectations like virtual reality, mixed reality and augmented reality.

“I taught myself how to use this engine eight years ago and it’s my whole career now. Today, I’m able to partner directly with them and work with both the business development teams and the educational management team,” Weinberger says. “Basically, it’s working together to collaborate on these new courses. I have access to alphas and betas of these features, I get ahead of them and teach it to the world in a way that makes sense.”

Through the education partnership between your employer and DeVry University, you have access to education benefits in support of your professional and life goals. To learn about transferring credits, tuition rate savings, and other benefits available to you through this partnership, contact your HR Representative.



DeVry University
Keller Graduate School of Management

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended these programs can be found at www.devry.edu/degree-programs/ge.html or www.keller.edu/graduate-degree-programs/ge.html.

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