

Graduating college can be as equally frightening as it is exciting. Up to this point in your life, just about everything has been planned for you - grade school, then high school, then college. And now you are asked to go out into the world with no set path to take. While this may make things seem intimidating or overwhelming, it is one of the best positions to be in.

Neno Pedro, Vice President of Global Marketing Technology at Calvin Klein, shares his story and the many changes he made throughout his career. Pedro grew up in Portugal and attended college there where, like many students, he struggled to figure out his major and what he wanted to do. He went off of his interests, and followed his gut to go into communication engineering. This ended up being a very common theme throughout Pedro's early career and young adult life - not knowing and trusting your gut.

Pedro confesses that within his current position, he really doesn't use too much that he learned from college and his major. The one thing his major truly taught him was how to learn. "I learned a lot of difficult topics that taught me how to learn new things with relative ease," Pedro states, "If I have to take something away from that degree that has been the key asset that's added to me as a person was really learning how to learn fast and not being afraid to really cover new topics or being confronted with things that I have no idea about."

Pedro's first job was coding for java, but when they finished a project and Java didn't want to make it public, he realized that he wanted to go into business. He took a job at Enensure merely because he wanted to learn about business and have a better understanding about it. "As long as you're learning and as long as you feel that you are experiencing something new that's adding to your experience everything is fine," Pedro advises, "If you have learned and mastered a given skill set then those people in the job will ask you to repeat what you have learned before, that's the point in time when you should think about doing something else."

These early career changes and changes in desire are ok and should be followed. Our first few jobs are not supposed to be the end all be all of our careers, but rather the next few classes that we are taking. They are supposed to teach us what we like and dislike, what works for us and what doesn't. Our first few jobs are our last few teachers before we find where we belong.

Pedro encourages us to be experimental early on in our careers. Do not be afraid of being in the wrong place because there is no wrong place. What is most important is taking the time to learn and experiment in order to find out where you really want to end up. Your main focus should be on finding your true passion within your career. Pedro reminds us, "If you discover what your passion is work will not be work it will be fun, and if it will be fun then you will be better than others and that will be recognized."