

# STUDENT EMPLOYMENT SPOTLIGHT

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ICAM Music with Computer Science minor



So far, I have been very lucky. I graduated in December so I'm still establishing myself in the workforce, but I am hopeful that I will end up in a position where I feel accomplished and satisfied. Right now I work at La Jolla Piano Institute and Kalabash School of the Arts where I teach piano and recording engineering.

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about your job? **A:** How creative and funny children can be. Each day is a different adventure because they always have crazy stories about their days or come up with funny ideas. It's even better when they pay attention and actually learn!

**Q:** How did your college experience impact you? **A:** I was fortunate in that my on-campus job opened up a lot of doors for me. I worked as an Audiovisual Technician for University Centers, which utilized my work-study award. It introduced me to skills and job positions that I didn't even know existed. I also learned a lot from my peers and professors. While in college, I mostly got career advice from the managers I worked for and the music professors that mentored me. Being in an environment with so many smart, hard-working, and talented people really opened my eyes to what was possible. I am very grateful for a great college experience and its positive impact on me.

**Q:** What's one thing you wish you knew as an undergrad? **A:** I wish I had known that there is a lot more opportunity for employment and success in my field. Part of the reason I minored in Computer Science was to have a fallback plan in case the music industry didn't work out for me. However, I regret not spending more time working on skills that I enjoyed a lot more because I was worried they wouldn't be marketable.

**Q:** What do you think is the most important quality or skill students should learn while in college to prepare them for the transition into the workplace? **A:** Interpersonal skills. These are skills that you don't necessarily need to get an 'A' on a test, but they are important in the workplace because it could open up more opportunities to be more successful in any position.

**Final advice?** Appreciate the small, yet fortunate, activities students get to enjoy. These could be naps in between classes or getting food in the middle of the night. The campus is like a utopia and that environment is more difficult to find in the "real world."

If anyone is interested in some of the work I did as an undergrad, [check out my senior project](#). It is a concept album that expresses my feelings and experiences as a Colombian immigrant. I composed, produced, and recorded the music at CPMC at UCSD.