

# Darren's Resume of Failure

This is a 'Résumé' of the failures / decisions / experiences in my life.

These experience mold me, shaped me, and helped me become the person that I am today.



- video/computer game addict
- unmotivated, average student
- doing the bare minimal

## 2003

**Did not get into dream middle school (Unity secondary school).**

- Avoided bad company, worked hard, got into the best class (favorite subject combination of Triple Science).



## 2009

**Did not qualify for dream Junior College - (1st crossroad).**

- 3rd in School but still did not qualify (L1B4:10 L1R5:12).
- On the fence between Junior College and Polytechnic and still unclear on what I wanted to do in life.
- Wanted to help people medically, ambition to be a doctor. Decided on Diploma in Biomedical Science at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.



## 2012

**Did not get into Med School (3.65 GPA) (2nd crossroad).**

- Did well in general (A's + B's) but not enough for med school.
- Discovered through shadowing a doctor at National University Hospital that medical doctor's life is not for me.
- Crossroads again > Wish to help people still > Ambition change: United Nations as Policy Maker for a bigger impact > Decided on Economics.



- motivated to be a doctor
- became a better student
- gained a lot of hands-on exp

## 2012

**Did not get a good grade for Final Year Project ('B' grade).**

- Learned about the importance of good communication, planning, and teamwork.

## 2013

**Did not get a placement for Singapore Management University, Economics (College 1st choice).**

- Not scheduled for interview.
- Decided on NUS to study Economics.



- learned important life skills
- picked up discipline and honor

## 2013

**Did not get into Leadership School during Military Conscriptation (National Service).**

- Out of Course (OOC) on Day 5 of Basic Military Training - Fractured lower ribs.
- Became a medic, learned valuable life skills, and returned to BMT to complete training.
- Became unfit during the two years.
- Made use of free time by learning Japanese language and taking classes.

## 2015

**Did not succeed in application for university scholarship in Japan (Nagoya University Global 30).**

- Applied for Economics program but did not make next round.
- Passed through preliminary rounds but only 1 awardee.
- Stuck with initial choice of studying locally in NUS.

## 2015

**Did not do well in Economics in freshman year (3rd crossroad)**

- Discovered that I suck at economics – lagging behind due to lack of foundation and motivation.
- Unsure about life > Back at crossroads again
- Joined an entrepreneurship camp in December > Won 2nd place for pitching competition > Tried finding people to start the idea but failed > Decided on Computer Science
- Spent entire Summer 2016 learning basic web development (HTML, CSS, JS, PHP, etc) and Photoshop.
- Coded out basic portfolio site and wrote letter to Dean of School of Computing with website.



- amateur designer/web dev
- focused and eager to learn

## 2016

**Did not manage to transfer into Computer Science (4th crossroad)**

- Failed transfer to Computer Science > Stayed in Arts, not sure which major > Chose Communications & New Media, Specializing in Design.
- Discovered the importance of school, but as an aid as self-guided learning is more important.
- Focused on design and frontend.
- Applied for NOC and became 1 of 28 people in NOC Silicon Valley Batch 31 (NCSV31).



- self-taught full stack UX designer (still have a long way to go ...)
- believes in self-guided learning
- highly motivated, self-guided learning, and striving to be a way better designer.
- putting in **110%** in whatever I do



*"Fail faster, succeed sooner." - D. Kelley, IDEO*