

NAVIGATING THE REAL WORLD

CODY POLLOCK

Cody Pollock graduated from Bethel University in Spring 2020 during the start of the pandemic. As one can imagine, searching for a job during the chaos of COVID is difficult to say the least.

A series of interviews with Thrivent led Pollock to the position he currently holds with the company. In this role, he works with his business partner, Martin, to support clients, manage his book, and bring in new clients.

Pollock believes that God has a plan. Throughout the difficulties, and the uncertainty, he knew that despite it all, God had a hand in it all. He goes on to say that he did not always know that he wanted to be in the financial industry. He initially went to Dordt University as an engineering major. He quickly learned that the combination of Dordt and engineering was not for him, and he transferred to Bethel starting his sophomore year. Pollock declared his major to be accounting and finance at first, but then later changed his single focus to be on finance.

As Pollock reflects on his experience in the real world, he says that college prepared him well for work. He found that along with his school work, the experience he gained in internships allowed him to prepare properly for the time management skills that are necessary in the modern workplace. Despite his preparation, he goes on to comment on the shift from college to real work by pointing out the amount of extra time you have in college versus while working full time. He states that there is a difference between going to class and then back to your room to hang with your friends, rather than the non-stop flow of the average work day. The solution he found was planning his week in advance, and having a set schedule.

Pollock stresses the importance of setting aside time to spend with family, to get dinner with friends, etc. In the finance industry, Pollock finds the opportunity to have a healthy balance between his work and personal life. During the first few years, one's schedule will be aimed towards work, but he says that one is able to buy time and pay their dues in order to reap the benefits later.



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Pollock's ultimate career goal is to keep working on building his book, and continue working with Martin. He also hopes to be able to give back to the community as he has more free time. He discusses how Thrivent has cool opportunities that give back to the community, and Pollock is not sure what that looks like for him, but he is eager to be involved. Pollock hopes to stay in his job until he retires. He says that every day and every scenario is different, which he finds exciting, rewarding, and fulfilling.

Pollock's advice to others looking to begin a career in finance is to find a team or business partner that can take you under their wing and help guide you. Once you start making those connections, it is easier to get leads from places around town or partnering with businesses. Pollock says to seek out opportunities: job shadows, internships, informational interviews, or even simply sitting with someone who has experience. Get as much information and advice as you can, so that you can use it as a guide to find what is right for you.

Lastly, Pollock's advice for college students is to not be afraid to transfer schools or change your major. If you do not think it is right for you, then it probably is not. He says to go with your gut and go with what you are passionate about. Life is too short to be miserable and work at a job you do not feel enthusiastic about. Join clubs in order to branch out and get involved, and always make the time to pursue the things you enjoy.