

Scott Perdue: Tech Com as a Pathway into UI/UX Design

Scott Perdue started his undergraduate education at Missouri S&T as an English major in 2004, but he soon switched to technical communication. The new major aligned closely with his natural ability and professional interests and would eventually lead him to a career in user interface/user experience (UI/UX) design.

Perdue graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication in May 2009. He was one of the first five graduates of our new BS program. He then worked as a web content developer for Joyce Meyer Ministries for over 3 years, a multimedia specialist for Biomedical Systems for 2 years, and a UX developer for Ungerboeck Software for just under a year.

For the last 7 years, Perdue has been involved in UI/UX design at Linxup, a company based in Chesterfield, Missouri, that provides GPS solutions. In his current role as UI/UX manager, Scott manages the company's digital assets, which include a mobile application, web application, and the

internal application (for accessing test accounts, user billing, etc.). He is happy creating UI/UX designs and developing general multimedia solutions.

"The things I learned in the tech com program at Missouri S&T go straight into the field of UI/UX design," Perdue said. "Writing is a big part of it. I learned to make sure that my writing is concise and well thought out and easy to understand. I learned that it's not always about making the flashiest design; it's about making a usable and user-friendly product."

Perdue dabbles in photography and videography, as well. "I see myself as a jack of all trades, trying to be well rounded. I would rather be pretty good at a lot of things than great at one thing and not good at anything else. It's important to balance your skill set. You don't have to be the best designer, best writer, best editor, but just being pretty good in those things really comes in handy. You can become a single-person team if you need to."

Fortunately, Linxup was a small company when he joined in 2016, and

he had to use all his skills as a UI/UX designer. "Because I had those skills, I was able to build up the design all by myself without having to rely on additional writers and editors. Having all those skills was really helpful."

Perdue believes that developing a broad set of skills is crucial for success. "I encourage anybody in the field to try to be well rounded with your skill set. If your core competencies are writing and editing, but not design, spend more time working on design. Even if you're writing manuals or something, design always comes in handy. I also have a little web development background, and as a UI designer, that really comes in handy, too."

Drawing from this experience, he advises tech com graduates to try different jobs until they find one they really like. "Keep challenging yourself until you find something that feels right for you and settle into that. I've been in my current job for seven years, and I'm still loving it. I think I've found my niche."

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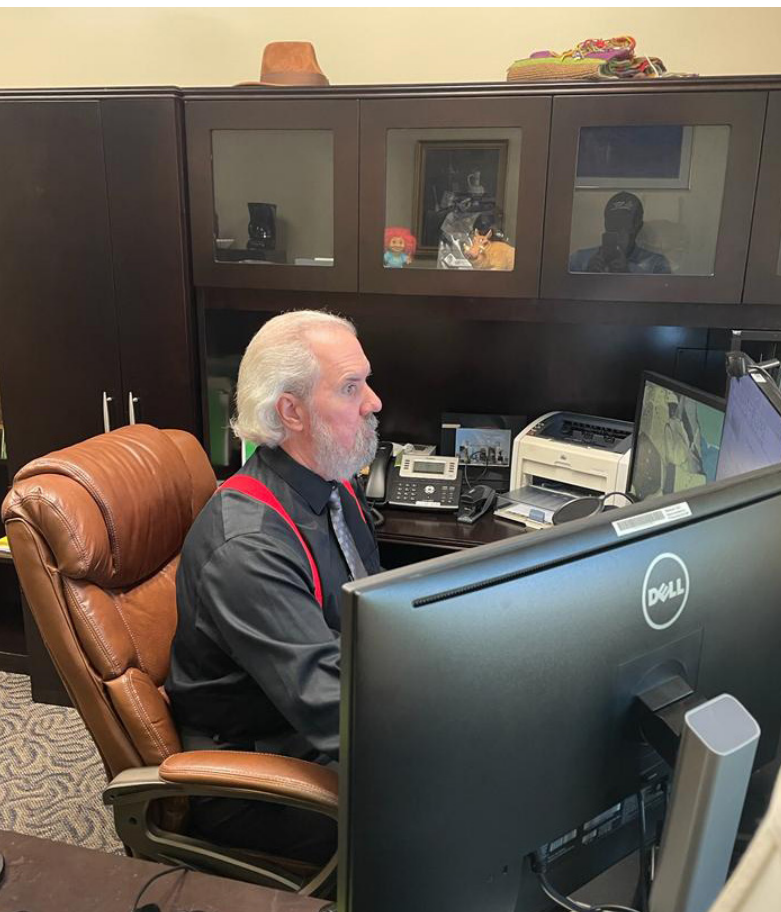
Scott and his father at Scott's Missouri S&T Graduation in 2009

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How does someone prepare for a career in UI/UX design? “It’s pretty easy if you have a good eye for layout, and if you’re a good writer and editor. Those skills transfer into this field. Even if there isn’t a course directly related to UI/UX design in the tech com program, the skills you learn in your courses will translate to the product design process. Figma is the most popular design tool now available for free, so there’s nothing stopping you from downloading free tutorials online and learning to use the tool.”

Perdue has fond memories of his time at Missouri S&T. “I enjoyed my time at S&T. I am thankful to have discovered the tech com program. I am thankful for the guidance from Dr. Northcut and the other professors

Roles Changes in Department



Dr. Reardon in his new office

Several members of the department assumed new roles at the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester.

Daniel Reardon, associate professor, is S&T’s Interim Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education. He was formerly Associate Chair of ETC. The associate chair’s role has been dissolved.

Jossalyn Larson, associate teaching professor, is Director of Foundational Speech and Composition in ETC. This new position subsumed the old position of Composition Director.

Kathleen Drowne, professor, is Special Assistant to the Provost. She was Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Science, and Education (CASE).

Kathryn Northcut, professor, is Assistant Chair for Undergraduate Studies in ETC. She was formerly S&T’s Vice Provost of Academic Support.

Ed Malone, professor, is Assistant Chair for Graduate Studies in ETC.