



1.If anything was possible, what would your dream job be, and why?

If anything was possible, I would like to own and operate my own café. Though, I would rather not call it a “job,” but a “dream” instead.

I’ve always wanted to create a cozy and welcoming space where I can share the things I enjoy – coffee, baked goods, books, music, and good company. I’ve always found the aroma of fresh coffee and bread fresh from the oven one of the most calming. I also feel that a café is a great canvas for my other interests and hobbies because I can integrate these into décor and ambience.

I’d also like to train as a barista because I’m interested in the way coffee is prepared. It can look like a science project with all the equipment and measurements, and it can look like a piece of art with patterns in frothed milk. It can range from a simple brewed cup to a concoction with a surprising citrus kick. I’d love to explore coffee craft in a café.

Lastly, a café is something I believe I can keep running at my own pace, no pressure, just my passion.



2. Have you ever experienced a stressful situation in your past workplace (college if fresh graduate), what was it and how did you overcome it?

While I was working at Carlos Hilado Memorial State University, our office was one of the key offices handling the Commencement Exercises for four campuses with more than 2,000 graduates. Preparing for this event was one of the most stressful experiences I had during my stay there.

Our office had to prepare the list of graduates for publishing, seat plan, and invitations. Unfortunately, the school did not have a centralized data system for all campuses yet, so each campus had submitted its own list and had its own templates and formats. Some lists were not updated, and some were even scanned copies that we had to retype by hand.

Because of the source documents and constant updates and revisions, we had to backtrack and edit a lot along the way. This delayed the seat plan and invitations since the basis was the master list. Many hours of overtime were put into these preparations.

To cope with the stress, I had to make sure I was getting enough sleep and rest when I got home so I could focus on the task the following day. I also made it a point not to bring the work to my home to avoid being overwhelmed. Snacks and coffee also got me through the many hours of sitting and going through papers and retyping names.



3. In your previous position, what task did you find most challenging and why? What task did you enjoy most and why?

Working at CHMSU had its fair share of hurdles and redeeming moments.

As the university's Communication, Marketing, and Public Information Support Staff under the Center for Internationalization and External Relations, the most challenging task I had was documenting events. Due to the lack of resources and staff, covering events was something I had to do on my own, and for some time, with my own personal equipment. I had to do interviews, take and post-process official photos, update real-time on Facebook, make write-ups for the website and newsletter, and compose press releases for local newspapers. As the office protocol, I had to accomplish all these within the hour or at most the following day of the event. Sometimes multiple events happened at the same time. These tasks really left me tired and overwhelmed at the end of the day.

On the other hand, the task I enjoyed the most was using communication to promote the university's advocacies. Through this, I was able to meet the university's local and international partners, participate in community and environment work, and join upskilling seminars and talks. These activities also led me to meet people from the university whom I consider my good friends, not just colleagues.

While brief, I believe these challenging and enjoyable tasks made my stay at CHMSU a rich and fulfilling one.



4. How would your previous managers/coworkers describe you?

Both my previous managers and coworkers had described me as someone who remains composed under pressure.

When the office has a hectic schedule, or when tasks suddenly pile up, I'm the type who would pause and look at the situation calmly to find solutions. I like to take a step back and even go for a quick walk or break just to compose my thoughts. I list down factors and make to-do lists and think about what my next steps will be. Depending on the situation, I also talk to a colleague who I believe can understand the situation I'm in. If I do feel overwhelmed, I reflect on myself and take charge of my emotions until I can find a better time and place to let them out.

I've always believed that I should not let the amount of difficulty of a task scare me off and me staying calm is basically my way accepting difficulties as part of the learning process.



5. What personal or professional accomplishments are you most proud of?

On a personal level, I am very proud that I finally pushed through with taking up my master's degree six years after graduating from college.

I've just started my first semester in the Master of Development Communication Program at the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU). This university uses remote and asynchronous learning, so it's perfect for someone who is working full time. Likewise, the Development Communication field is also something I find interesting and inspiring because of the meaningful impact it can have in our society.

The idea of further studies was at the back of my mind for a long time, but I always put it off because I lacked the drive, time, and resources. I also thought that I was not cut out for a master's degree yet because I lacked experience and know-how. Now, I believe that I'm ready to take on this new chapter in my academic journey.