

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

When I was young, I had a few dream jobs. I remember myself wanting to become a nun because I grew up with the Salesian Sisters, dreaming of teaching and helping children. During my grade school, I became fond of science and imagined myself becoming a scientist. And as I grew up, I became practical. I took up a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management in the hopes that I will be able to land a job on a cruise ship. Why not? It offers a higher salary. Not only that, but you also get to travel around the world—for FREE. I can get the opportunity to experience different cultures and meet different people, and most of all, I can try a variety of cuisines. I will be able to explore international destinations while earning enough for myself and my family. As it is also my dream to provide my parents with everything they haven't experienced growing up.

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

I have experienced several stressful situations in my previous workplace. One of which is the tendency of higher-ranked personnel to commit power trips on their subordinates. Power tripping can manifest in different ways. The most common scenario is by making their subordinates do the tasks that they are supposed to do as immediate heads with minimal supervision and resources. It leaves the subordinates with greater pressure and worries. Based on experience, they do this to avoid accountability in case the work doesn't end well; otherwise, they enjoy the credits if the work yields positive results. At work, I am honest about the things I can and can't do. I always see to it that my manager knows the concern so we can work together. To avoid power trips, I see to it that I do my job well and that I know and stand by my rights as an employee.

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

My previous job was teaching. The most challenging task for me is preparation for accreditations and CHED visits. These undertakings require a lot from the teachers. We would be tasked to prepare different documentations and consolidate student output needed as proof of the work we do in the program. Moreover, there are different areas that we have to comply with. If the program doesn't meet the standard requirement set by the agency, there is a possibility that the program might not be accredited or, worse, be closed. That is why we tend to work overtime even without pay. On the other hand, what I enjoy the most as an educator is being able to hone our students' character, knowledge, and skills. For me, the student's success is an achievement for a teacher. It is a great privilege to impart something significant to them and inspire them. After they graduated, some of them became my friends.

4. How would your past colleagues or managers describe your work ethic?

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I am very particular about how I behave in the workplace. I do try my best to work with them professionally. If you were to ask them, they would say I am dependable. I make sure that I am useful at work. I do my job, so I am expecting you to do yours as well. We have this TBI in my previous workplace, which is the students' evaluation of their teachers. The usual comment of my students about me is my good work ethic. I can also be assertive at work. I directly communicate when something is unclear about the job, when I need resources, or even when I have concerns. I make sure that before I start working, I am well-oriented to the task given. I am not too serious at work, though; I am also fun to be with. A little humor and wit at work can make tasks lighter and help in fostering camaraderie.

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

As a teacher, the professional accomplishment I am most proud of is seeing my students graduate and become successful in their field. Every time I receive appreciation messages from my students thanking me for being one of those who helped them get to where they are now, that makes me proud. Some of them still reach out to me for advice. It makes me feel that I am doing an effective job as an educator and that I am fulfilling my purpose for this call.

As for my personal accomplishment so far, it is deciding to have a change in my career path. I had worked in the academy for years already, and I felt like it had become my comfort zone. So, I am proud of myself for taking the challenge to get out of that track and look for growth opportunities in another field. I realized that I can still do more.