



Salvador

Mountain View Working Scholars

BA in Business

Salvador works as a maintenance technician at Google in Mountain View. Although Salvador had dropped out of high school, in his 20s to earn a GED. Earning a degree became challenging, in part

because he was trying to commute to a junior college after working a 10-hour shift.

He explained that Working Scholars is “an online bachelor’s program that’s done pretty easily as long as you put in the work.”

“The reason I decided to become a Working Scholar is because, my whole adult life, I wanted to go to college,” he said. “I have a really good worth ethic, but in today’s economy, work ethic isn’t enough. This opportunity came up and I jumped on it as quickly as I could.”

Working Scholars has made it easier for Salvador to fit earning a college degree into his schedule. He doesn’t have to spend large portions of time commuting to classes and can get studying done in even small amounts of time.

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“The way I do it is I get to work an hour early and I’ll study for that hour and then at my lunch I’ll study for another hour,” he said. “At the end of the week, I’ll have anywhere from 10 to 15 hours of studying done.”

Salvador has even made progress during a road trip.

“I had about a two-hour road trip with my girlfriend and I knew that was going to be valuable time that I could study, but I also knew that if she had her music on, I wouldn’t be able to focus even with earphones,” he said. “So I went to Home Depot and got those

gardener's muff things and I put them on and I got two hours of studying in and she listened to her music."

When a writing workshop was held to for Working Scholars participants, Salvador attended and said he enjoyed it and got a lot of value out of it. He benefited from the information, but also from getting to talk to other Working Scholars.

"I did meet with other scholars and it was encouraging to see that I wasn't just alone, the only person doing it," he said. "All of these people were doing exactly what I was doing."

Salvador joined Working Scholars less than a year ago and has already completed about 10 courses.

"I feel 100 percent confident that I'll get my degree," he said. "There isn't a choice not to do it. It's like breathing the life I want to have – the only way I'll have it is by getting this and so I'm going to get it."

By earning his bachelor's degree, Salvador hopes that he'll be able to play more of a managerial role in his industry.

"The way having a college degree will change my life is it will give me opportunities to show people what I can do," he said. "Without that degree, you're not going to get any job where you do critical work, where what you do matters. But once you get that degree, people put a little more on your plate. You can prove yourself a lot easier."

Salvador shared his advice to potential Working Scholars: "The advice I would give anyone that's thinking of becoming a Working Scholar is for them to look in the mirror and really ask themselves if they're ready to do the work because it's not easy. You're going to have to work for it and, as soon as you are ready, sign up immediately and just do it. Just be ready to work hard and put in that time."