



When did you get your job?



**Halley:** I was 22 years old!



**Stephane:** I got my first job at 17 years old. It was in high school, and I liked restaurant/grocery store jobs. This is my first professional job but all my jobs in the past taught me useful skills one way or another (good organization, owning up to your work, being a team-player, prioritizing, being reliable)



**Sara:** I started as a School Counselor when I was 25. I was a mental health case manager at age 22. I started working at Hanover High 3 years ago.



**Trp. Pearson:** I joined law enforcement at 21 years old



What were your favorite subjects in middle school?



**Halley:** Math and Science!



**Stephane:** Science!



**Sara:** English 😊



**Trp. Pearson:** Social Studies!



If there is a talent you need for a job, but don't have, how can you get better at that talent (like communicating with people)?



**Stéphane:** Practice and join communities.



**Sara:** There are communication classes that you can take. It also just takes a lot of practice!



**Trp. Pearson:** I would encourage everyone—introverts and extroverts alike—to spend time reading, writing, and asking others about themselves. I say this because reading will expand your vocabulary and understanding of grammar. Writing will enable you to correctly weave the words and grammar you've learned. And speaking with others about them will help you learn to both "break the ice," as well as actively listen and respond to what the other person says to you. If you work on these skills, you are sure to succeed!



If there is a talent you need for a job, but don't have, how can you get better at that talent (like communicating with people)?



**Mat:** One way is get a job that forces to you do that talent! In the hiring process, you can be open and honest with a potential employer acknowledging that you are still developing a particular skill and ask for support as you learn/practice. Alternatively, volunteering is an excellent way to practice different skills (public speaking, team work, etc). Potential employers like hearing about volunteering activities.



**Careers CLiC:** A great way to develop and gain skills is through volunteer work, community service and participating in activities at school. Helping out with a school or community fundraising, for example, is an early opportunity to practice communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Later in high school you can continue to build your skills through school programs, like a job shadow or internship, and even consider part-time work.



What is the strongest skill you have that helps you in your work?



**Halley:** Communication skills. You need to be able to effectively communicate to be able to make plans and talk while working on projects. And also attention to detail! It's incredibly important to look closely at everything so you can be sure everything gets fixed properly before going back out in service!



**Stephane:** I've had to develop a never give up attitude to better handle work. Although I'm done with school, I still have to actively learn new things at work, and it's a never-ending journey. The key is to have a strong attitude and really love what you do. If you're actively aware of your mistakes and work hard to fix them then you're golden! There is always a solution, and you just need to spend enough time looking for it.



**Sara:** The skill that I rely on most is my ability to develop and sustain relationships. Relationship building is key in counseling as we have to have relationships with so many people- students, teachers, parents, community members. In order to help people, there must be a solid relational framework or foundation of trust. Building relationships can be hard- it takes a lot of listening, being curious about other people, asking questions, encouraging others. I also think that along with the 4 C's which I use everyday, organization is a skill that I rely on daily. My days are very busy and I would not be able to stay on top of things without being able to manage my time and keep myself organized :)



What is the strongest skill you have that helps you in your work?



**Trp. Pearson:** Having empathy and compassion for others, and an ability to actively listen and communicate is critical for success in law enforcement. If you treat people with respect and dignity, even in stressful and dangerous circumstances, you will be successful. I would also say that albeit its not a "skill," having a good attitude is crucial!

We have a question about independent jobs - like where you work for yourself.



**Mat:** Working for yourself has never been easier - and the areas where you can do that are vast! You can be a carpenter, lawyer, logger, any sort of design, bookkeeper... the list goes on and on. Working for yourself and being your own boss is doable!



Stephane, how do you become a software developer? How much schooling? What kind of software do you develop?



**Stephane:** I make HVAC software but you can make websites, apps, and anything really! You can do a 2yrs associate degree or 4yrs, and you can also be self-taught.

Stephane, what happens to the buildings that have AI in them when the AI on the building isn't working?



**Stephane:** This is a good question; it will relay back to human operation or standby mode. In standby the building does nothing and signals for help. AI in the building is an additional feature to make human's life easier but can always be turned off anytime to operate the building manually.



Halley, what's it like driving a Snow Cat?



**Halley:** It's awesome! And pretty simple! It's like other pieces of heavy equipment.

Halley, what is an LNA?



**Halley:** An LNA is a Licensed Nursing Assistant.



**Mat:** Licensed Nursing Assistant - LNA; important role in the health care system supporting patients and nurses.





Trooper Pearson, how old do I need to be to become a trooper in Vermont?



**Trp. Pearson:** You can become a law enforcement officer in VT at the age of 18. However, the Vermont State Police requires applicants be 20 years old and reach their 21st birthday by graduation of the Basic Academy.

VSP basic employment info:  
<https://vsp.vermont.gov/employment>



Trooper Pearson - How many calls do you get in a week?



**Trp. Pearson:** Every week varies, but last year I responded to more than 1,000 calls of service





Trooper Pearson, what are the most calls you have received in just one day?



**Trp. Pearson:** Sometimes I will work a "double," which consists of two back-to-back shifts. I have worked more than 22 hours in one day. During that time, it was more than 25 calls

Trooper Pearson, how many days per week do you work? How many hours per week?



**Trp. Pearson:** Every department/agency varies. Vermont State Police's Field Force Division (patrol), which is what I work, is 4 days on, 2 days off + 5 days on, two days off (alter every other week).

Trooper Pearson, have you ever had to shoot your gun?



**Trp. Pearson:** Yes...at trainings and when dealing with animals. Not at people.



Trooper Pearson, have you ever been pepper sprayed?



**Trp. Pearson:** Multiple times. It hurts!

Trooper Pearson, How do you prepare to go into dangerous situations? Can you tell us about a time you had to go into a dangerous situation? How did you deal with it after?



**Trp. Pearson:** The best way Troopers prepare to face difficult and dangerous situations is by training regularly. Similar to students who study and practice math equations before a math exam, so do Troopers physically and mentally prepare for a plethora of situations that we may need to respond to. Training entails not just physical practice but also mental preparedness. I have responded to shootings, house fires, and medical emergencies to name a few. Every Trooper handles stress differently, but I personally enjoy talking with other Troopers, lifting weights, going on long runs, and spending time with my family.



How old do I need to be to get a good job in Vermont?



**Mat:** You can be as young as 14 to begin working though there are some restrictions. Some of those restrictions are lifted at 16 but you still can't work in 'dangerous jobs' until you are 18. If you are 12 and want to work, look around your community for opportunities --- babysitting, pet sitting, basic lawn care, or start your own business. I know a young person who started a business updating/maintaining their neighbors' computer systems.



The Vermont Department of Labor has Youth Counselors who assist young people get a job. Please reach out to your local VT Dept of Labor office to be connected with someone who specializes working with young people. You can earn good money and gain valuable skills from early employment.



**Careers CLiC:** Employers have different policies regarding their ability to hire minors. If you are interested in a position with a company, call and speak with their hiring manager to find out what is the youngest age they are able to hire. Keep in mind that all employers must follow youth labor laws, so there might be restrictions on the tasks or the number of hours you can work.



Do you have to go to college to be a carpenter? Is that similar to an engineer? Can you go to college for more than one thing if you have multiple interests?



**Mat:** You don't have to go to college to be a carpenter. Ways to be a carpenter include career technical education, an apprenticeship, or learning by getting hired as a "carpenter's helper". Carpenters and engineers are different. In fact, there are many types of "engineer" which require different education, skills and abilities. Here are some webpages (which include videos) that explain what each job is. I have included the most common types of engineers:

- carpenter - <http://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=47-2031.00>
- civil engineer (the type that typically works on construction projects): <http://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=17-2051.00>
- mechanical engineer: <http://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=17-2141.00>
- chemical engineer: <http://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=17-2041.00>
- industrial engineer (my favorite): <http://www.vtlmi.info/oic3.cfm?occcode=17-2112.00>

College can be a great place for a person with multiple interests – particularly places like VT Technical College which offers shorter programs to be an engineering technician and partners with local employers to help students secure work quicker.





Do you have to go to college to be a carpenter? Is that similar to an engineer? Can you go to college for more than one thing if you have multiple interests?



**Careers CLiC:** Some High School Career Technical Centers offer trades programs to help students gain carpentry-related experiences. There are many different jobs in the trades field, so be sure to check them all out. If you are interested in college and in building you might look into construction trades related degrees and project management.

Regarding Engineering: There are many different types of engineers (civil, mechanical, electrical, computer, etc). People tend to gain early experiences in these fields through self-teaching, STEM programs, college or other classes. In some states, people need to be licensed to do engineering work.

College is a great place for people with multiple interests. College provides a chance to explore different options. It is very normal for people to start college or careers with one idea in mind, then change their goals over time. Try to build flexibility into your plans and expect your preferences to change overtime. If you do attend college, be sure to visit the career center and introduce yourself in the first semester!





How many years does it take for a Master's Degree to become a librarian?



**Mat:** The master's degree typically takes 2 years after completing a bachelor's degree. However, more schools are allowing BA+MA in five years if the person has a clear focus. You would want to check with the school.



**Careers CLiC:** A Masters Degree is a graduate degree, the degree you work on after your first four years of college. It can take anywhere from 1 to 3 years depending on the exact type of degree (MA, MS, etc.) and the university you are gaining the degree from. The amount of time it takes in total might depend on your prior education and experience, and whether you are a full or part-time student.

How many degrees do you need to be an equine veterinarian (how many years of schooling do you need)?



**Mat:** Four years to earn an undergraduate degree and another four years of vet school. After four years of vet school, graduates can either elect to go directly into private practice or sign up for an internship, which typically provides an additional year of clinical training.