

MY CREDENTIAL STORY



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When my ASCP Board of Certification exam ended, I pressed the submit button. The screen went blank. Waiting for the result felt like an eternity. The last two years of schooling flashed through my mind; tears, laughter, frustration, and a sense of accomplishment. All the money and effort spent. Was this worth it?

The computer screen returned with word, “Passed.” My hands were shaking, my heart pounding. I did it! I walked out of the testing center with butterflies in my stomach.

Next, I had to find a job. The search was difficult and long. I applied to countless places. Some places politely declined, due to my lack of experience. Being a new graduate with only rotations placed me at a disadvantage. I had numerous correspondences with job recruiters, only to be left hanging with no reply. After almost a year, I interviewed at two places. Each had different implications for my future.

The second interview was at a small, regional hospital. The cytology and pathology staff were very open and encouraging. I felt like this was where I needed to be to start my career. I traded my oceans for mountains and moved four hours north from Rhode Island to Vermont to work at Rutland Regional Medical Center. The hospital is tucked into a small mountain range with a skyline of mountains and church steeples. I never looked back.

I have evolved into a confident cytotechnologist, and have been given many opportunities for growth within my job. I trained to be a CAP inspector for cytopathology, and participated in a CAP inspection of another lab. Our department took on molecular testing, and I am trained on a molecular testing platform for detecting HPV, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. My manager recommended me to be a regional director for the American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT). This has given me an opportunity to network with like-minded, goal-oriented individuals. I am currently president-elect for the ASCT, and enjoy having a hands-on role in this Society.

Three years into my career, I have been rewarded with knowledge, experience, friendship, and love. Moving to Vermont, I found love. I’d met someone who was tangential to my social circles back home—someone I went to high school with, but never met until I moved to Vermont. I had taken a leap of faith in finding a job and moving to a new state. The universe rewarded my actions with the greatest gift of all, love.

None of this would have been possible without my ASCP BOC certification. What’s next? I plan to take the ASCP BOC exam in molecular biology, and eventually the Specialist in Cytotechnology, SCT(ASCP) exam. I want to continue to learn, and I look forward to what the future holds.