

How prepared are  
you for your job  
search in the  
UX/UI field?

Your Results &  
Your Next Steps

Based on your results,  
your job search type is:

**Eventual UX/UI'er**



As an **Eventual UX/UI'er**,  
you have an exciting road ahead!

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# Your customized results!

First, congrats on making the difficult decision to career pivot into the design world. I did the same 20+ years ago and never regretted it. My dream for you is to say the same thing 20 years from now!

As you navigate your journey into UX/UI, I have three pieces of advice:

1. **Build your foundational UX/UI knowledge**
2. **Gain practical real-world experience**
3. **Create a solid portfolio**

Each section below gives you practical steps to move forward in these areas.

But first, let me introduce myself.

# Who is Carma?

After switching to the design world over 20 years ago, my career went in directions I never thought possible.

Design changed my life. Being creative filled my soul.

I am passionate about helping others also make the career journey into the design world.

I have trained 1000s of professionals the skills they need to advance in their career. My courses on Coursera reached over 135,000 learners.

I've been an employee, a contractor, a freelancer, and a business owner. I understand what's needed to find your next job.

I'm here to help you do just that!



And now on to the 3 pieces of advice I have for you as an **Eventual UX/UI'er**.

# Your next steps

## 1. Build your foundational UX/UI knowledge



Focus on expanding your understanding of UX/UI design principles, user research, and interaction design.

Take online courses, read books, and engage with relevant communities to deepen your knowledge.

Each person has their preferred way of learning. Choose the method that works best for you. *Check out the resources at the end of this document.*

Let's move on to the second piece of advice I have for you as an **Eventual UX/UI'er**.

## 2. Gain practical real-world experience



It is practical real-world experience that will set you apart from your competition. Yes, it's good to complete student projects that are part of your coursework or learning environment.

But, gaining real-world experience is paramount. It gives you the edge over others also career-pivoting into the UX/UI field.

Here are a few ways to gain real-world experience:

- internships
- freelance
- volunteer
- non-profit organizations

Real-world experience strengthens your portfolio and provides valuable insights into working in the UX/UI industry.

I understand you may be reluctant to put yourself out there yet. Start with your coursework and build up to completing real-world projects.

If you need some ideas on how to find a real-world project, check out my guide for [12 Ways to Find Real-World Projects for Your Portfolio](#). (Google doc)



If you're not quite ready to work for others, there is a bonus section at the end of the guide on how to come up with your own projects.

### **By completing real-world projects, you**

- gain experience in working with clients
- enhance your communication skills
- advance your experience in collaborating with others

Complete at least 2 real-world projects (for someone else) to include in your portfolio - which relates to the third piece of advice I have for you as an **Eventual UX/UI'er**.



### 3. Create a solid portfolio



Build a portfolio that showcases your projects and demonstrates your ability to apply the design process and design principles.

As you work on a project, be sure to document your work-in-progress, including user research and metrics. Record the details and capture visuals of each step. Seek feedback from experienced designers to improve your work. (hint: use LinkedIn to find experienced designers)

Take screenshots, pictures, notes of everything you do, including the feedback from others.

You will use this information to build case studies from your projects for your online portfolio. It's too easy to forget to capture your work-in-progress. Don't forget. You will thank yourself later when you are creating your portfolio.

An online portfolio provides valuable insights for recruiters and hiring managers on your design process.

In my reviews of hundreds of projects in online portfolios, these 3 key items are often missing.

### 1. Hero image with project name and brief description

Include a picture of your final design at the top of your project, along with the name of the project and a brief description. This allows recruiters and hiring managers to quickly glance at the top of your project and they immediately know what your project is about.

### 2. Before and after images

Recruiters and hiring managers want to see how you respond to feedback and how you apply feedback to your design process. Don't forget to take screenshots of your in-between designs.

### 3. Takeaways

Wrap-up your case study/project with your Takeaways. Recruiters and hiring managers want to know:

- That you can overcome challenges (share the challenges that occurred and how you over came them)
- What you learned
- What will you do differently next time
- Next steps

For more resources about online portfolios, check out the links at the end of this document.

That's it!

As an **Eventual UX/UI'er** focus on these three things:

- Build your UX/UI knowledge
- Gain practical real-world experience
- Create a portfolio

If you follow these 3 pieces of advice, you are well on your way to becoming an established UX/UI'er.

**See next page for additional resources for each of these 3 areas.**

# Additional Resources

## 1. Build your foundational UX/UI knowledge

Here are a few places to start:



[DesignWithArash](#) on YouTube

- [DesignWithArash](#) has trained over 30,000 students worldwide. He shares UX/UI tips and helps you become a better UX/UI designer - for free.
- [UXBeginner.com](#) (includes recommendations for training and bootcamp)
- [Udemy UX Designer Course](#) by Joe Natoli
- [Interaction Design Foundation](#) (courses and community)

I've spoken with Joe Natoli, the author of the Udemy course. You might also want to check out is [UX 365 Academy](#). It is on-demand training from a guy who has been in the industry 20+ years. Best of all, the cost is incredibly reasonable.

## 2. Gain practical real-world experience (same resource as mentioned above)

If you need some ideas on how to find a real-world project, check out my guide for [12 Ways to Find Real-World Projects for Your Portfolio](#). (Google doc)



## 3. Create a solid portfolio

For more info about online portfolios:

- [Designing Your UX Portfolio](#) (medium article)
- [How to Level Up Your Portfolio](#)

# Need more help?

If you have any questions as you begin your UX/UI journey, don't hesitate to reach out.

You can find me at [carmabaughman.com](http://carmabaughman.com) or on [LinkedIn](#).



Thank you for taking the time to complete the ***How prepared are you for your UX/UI job search*** quiz.

If you'd like to retake the quiz at some future date as you continue your UX/UI journey, you can always access it here:

[Quiz: How prepared are you for your UX/UI job search?](#)