I RECEIVED A ‘NOT YET’: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

The College for America model takes a very different approach to education. We believe that all students are capable of learning, but the path to mastery will be different for each student.

While working through the program, every student at College for America will get at least one ‘Not Yet,’ so it’s important to understand a little more about them. Sometimes you’ll receive a ‘Not Yet’ because of a minor omission or small mistake, and other times it will be for something bigger. Sometimes it will be an easy fix, and other times the project will require significant changes and additional work. Sometimes, you’ll master the project after one ‘Not Yet,’ and other times you may have to work through several revisions.

No matter what the scenario, it’s important to view ‘Not Yets’ as part of the learning process, as well as an opportunity to improve your knowledge and skills. A ‘Not Yet’ is your chance to tap your Reviewer’s knowledge and to learn directly from a subject matter expert.

When you get those inevitable ‘Not Yets,’ you can feel frustrated, but try to keep things in perspective. You’re here to learn and to earn a degree that says something about you. A degree that says you are competent and capable and that you can persist even when things don’t go as expected the first time around.

Should you have questions about the project or need clarification on the feedback, make sure to communicate with the Reviewer. He or she will help you overcome barriers and pinpoint helpful resources. Reviewers are here to help you learn and they want to be part of your process. They want to help guide you on your journey to earning your degree!

Some ways that students think about ‘Not Yets’

“Not Yets” often come up in the conversations our students have in the learning community. On the following pages are a few examples from those conversations that show how students think about the ‘Not Yet’ experience:
When I received #NotYets, it was frustrating because I felt that I had worked hard on the task. I started to realize that with anything you do there is always room for improvement. The CFA evaluators know when you can do better and help you along the way. It always made me feel better when I finally mastered something and the evaluator would say "I knew you could do it." I felt a sense of accomplishment.

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When I get #NotYets, I feel frustrated. I don't want those obstacles standing in the way of my degree. Yet, overcoming obstacles is an accomplishment in and of itself. What's more, having to go through this process so often with CFA is helping me to handle feedback more graciously in other areas of my life as well.

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Are we there yet? #NotYet. One of the crazy but funny things parents go through is that question, are we there yet? Once we get there the fun starts and we feel good. With CFA we sometimes have that low feeling when we see the #NotYet from the reviewer. However my experience is mixed. Sometimes I see the #NotYet and get bummed other times I see that as a reminder how I need to and could have done better the first time!
I know that every time I submit a project I'm aiming for "mastered", but is it weird that I don't get discouraged at all by a "Not Yet"? I find the feedback really helps me learn. I always see posts about the dreaded "Not Yets", but I don't see them as necessarily bad... Instead, I see them as yet another tool to help fine tune my knowledge/application of something. I really love this program because the only real way to FAIL, is to not try in the first place. What are your thoughts on this? :)

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Danielle, I feel exactly the same! I have done mostly purple projects and the feedback is usually very helpful. Since I am working on projects outside my area of expertise, I am not crushed to find out that I need to organize things differently or explore a certain aspect more fully. The rework has not been extensive. I don't see a 'Not Yet' as a failure... Simply an 'Almost There'.

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What do you mean, Not Yet?

After more than five months in the program, I have had several Not Yets. Some have been more frustrating than others. I received one on a recent project that I had worked hard on and thought was really good, so when the reviewer sent it back, I was discouraged, to say the least. The truth is, though, that when I gave more thought to her comments, I realized she was right on the money. I ended up having to resubmit twice, but the result is a project that I take even greater pride in.

I admit, on those occasions where I pass on the first try, I do a little happy dance. But, I'm realizing those Not Yets have a place. I feel an even greater sense of accomplishment at persisting and overcoming those obstacles. Besides, why am I doing this program if I have nothing to learn from the reviewers?

How about you? What is your take on the Not Yets? What have you learned from them?

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