

# The

# MODEL

# Student

By Tyler Santostefano, WPS Entrepreneurial Studies Graduate



## MODEL

### A Model Student

My name is Tyler Santostefano. I currently work as the Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions for the Carroll School of Management at Boston College, a role I was promoted into just a few days after my 25th birthday. I received my high school diploma from Windermere Preparatory School and was Valedictorian of my graduating class. I applied to seven colleges during my senior year and was admitted to all of them. I chose to enroll at Boston College, held an on-campus job for all 4 years of my college career, worked as a Resident Assistant for my junior and senior years, and eventually graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Management from the then-third ranked undergraduate business school in the country with a 3.4 GPA.

## FAILURE

### A First Failure

All of you reading this might have said that I was the model student. Traditional academics have always been my strong suit and I have never struggled much inside the classroom. Having heard my story, and knowing where I am now, one might think that I had no trouble finding and landing a job after graduation. But I was highly unprepared for life after college. I was unable to land an internship during my time at BC, despite countless job interviews and career



STORY in  
*Motion* 

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fairs, and I ultimately graduated without the slightest idea of what I was going to do. I had no idea what I wanted to do, and I didn't even know what I was good at.

For the first time in my life, at age 22, I had experienced failure. My educational journey was traditional, but there is a life outside of education that students have to deal with, and traditional academics play such a small role in preparing students for it. Now in hindsight, I believe my time in school needed to have more time devoted to receiving structured mentorship, and learning to build relationships with other

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people – not memorizing the quadratic formula or the periodic table of elements. It was through the power of mentorship received from The Start Up Studio that I was able to ultimately discover the power of self and align my interest in education and passion for helping people – particularly students like me.

## GUIDANCE

### Guidance to Grow

After receiving the initial guidance from The Startup Studio, I relied upon the network I had built during my time at Boston College. Through some contacts I had made within the BC community, I was given the opportunity to return to BC as a temporary employee, and eventually worked my way up to the Assistant Director level in just two years. It was

during this phase of my life that I learned more about the real world than I ever had previously, and I was finally able to understand important life skills that I could use to advance my career. Even small skills like presenting an idea that I had come up with to a room full of people, or learning to problem solve under pressure, have been more useful than anything I had learned from the K-12 or even K-16 curriculum. These new life experiences have changed my perspective on the U.S. education system, and I will be sure to take them into deep consideration as I continue striving to disrupt and change the education landscape in the United States.



## AUTHOR

### About the Author

Tyler Santostefano is a Boston College alumnus who holds degrees in both management and higher education and is blessed to have found a role that perfectly combines these two fields. Through his academic and professional experience, he has learned that the Jesuit mission is a powerful one, and one that he strongly believes in. He hopes to continue applying what he has learned to student-facing roles that enable him to support college students on their respective journeys of discovering and forming all aspects of their identities. He aims to serve Catholic Higher Education institutions by enhancing the notion of the Catholic intellectual tradition throughout the United States, and ultimately the entire world.