

Jack Lubin
Failure CV

In a CV, we highlight all the things that we want to brag about: our education, our fellowships, our awards won, etc. This makes sense of course, everyone wants to look good and no one wants to look bad. Especially when we are applying to a job or a grant or a fellowship, we want to put our best foot forward and show the admission committee or grant committee why they should hire us or give us funding. Usually in academia, professionals will post a CV to their website, so that anyone can read them and get a good picture of the general career arc of the person.

But a CV is deceptive. Because we only want to show our best side, we only include things that make us look good. A CV is only one side of the picture of a career. Even the most successful professionals meet a lot of rejection over the course of their career. But we often try to bury these rejections and failures. A failure CV is supposed to be the opposite of a regular CV. It intentionally highlights the low-lights of a career. It should show missed opportunities, rejections of all kinds, general failures, and more. The idea is to be honest, to show that even successful people experience non-success. They should be inspirational: look at how many rejections even very successful people have had. Then when you get a rejection or have a failure, it can be more fairly put into context within your own career. Failure CVs spread humility and honesty, and show the downs that go with the ups of a career.

I've put this Failure CV together as an example. It is by no means complete, mostly because, like most of us, I try to not to remember my failures and rejections, and I certainly did not keep records of them in the same way that I did (and do) with my successes (now I will keep track of both and continually update this Failure CV in the same way that I updated my regular CV).

I hope that someone reading this will see that my career (while by no means "successful" or "exceptional" for someone at a similar stage of career), will see that I have hit many roadblocks along the way. And then the reader will know that any roadblocks they hit can be overcome and put into context.

I hope that the reader who peruses my CV will also look over this Failure CV. And, like with my regular CV, I am happy to talk about this Failure CV as well.

Best, Jack
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Schools Rejected From:

U = Undergrad, G = Grad, T = Undergrad Transfer

- **Undergrad:** Vanderbilt (Rejected early decision, later accepted on transfer), Harvard, Dartmouth, Rice, Stanford
- **Transfer:** UPenn, Cornell, Columbia
- **Graduate:** Harvard, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego, Arizona, Arizona State, UTexas Austin, Denver U, Michigan... I was rejected from every school I applied to, except one...UCI! While it's nice to have options, you can only attend one school so you only need one acceptance.

Jobs Rejected From

- Basically every major consulting firm (Deloitte, Bain & Co, KPGM, E&Y, etc)
- Various hedge funds (when I thought I might want to do this kind of work, glad it didn't work out!)
- An internship with the Nashville Predators doing statistics (I really wanted this one!)
- Approximately 15 REUs across 2 summers

Fellowship/Grants rejected

- NSF Grad Research Fellowship (not even honorable mention)
- NASA Future Investigators Fellowship (FINNEST), twice
- NASA EPRV ROSES
- At least 2 NOIRLab telescope time proposals