

“What makes working in the movie theatre industry unique, and how will that experience support your college goals?”

The movie theater has always been one of the hottest places in my town, which made it a natural choice when I began searching for jobs to help me pay for my college tuition. Having grown up going to this theater, I decided to apply, expecting a typical part time job. Instead, it has become one of the most unique and valuable professional experiences I have had. Working in the movie theater industry is distinctive because it blends entertainment, fast paced operations and customer service. While there are perks such as free movies, loads of free popcorn, and early access to movies and merchandise, the true value lies in the dynamic environment. The structure of staggered showtimes creates a constantly changing workflow, requiring efficiency, adaptability, and teamwork. This flexibility has also allowed me to balance school and work, maintain consistent hours while pursuing my education. Over the past three years, I have grown from a team member into an assistant manager, gaining hands on experience in business operations. I assist with inventory management, place orders based on customer demand, handle financial transactions, and create Excel spreadsheets to improve labor efficiency. I have also coordinated large scale events, including field trips with over 500 students and private parties, strengthening my ability to manage logistics and remain organized under pressure. Additionally, I regularly resolve customer concerns and respond to feedback, developing strong communication and problem-solving skills. What makes my experience especially unique is the variety of services our theater provides. In addition to traditional concessions, we operate a café style kitchen, we prepare fresh food such as chicken strips, fries, pizzas, and desserts. This has given me experience in food service operations, including time management, quality control, and customer satisfaction, while balancing multiple areas of the business simultaneously. My experience has expanded further as our theater undergoes renovations and transitions into a full entertainment venue, incorporating an arcade and bowling alley. I have contributed through hands on work, including helping dismantle theater spaces and preparing for new installations. Being part of this transition has been especially exciting because I am not just observing change, I am contributing to it. It has shown me how businesses innovate to stay relevant and meet evolving customer expectations. Additionally, implementing a new information system at work directly connected to concepts from my information systems course, allowing me to apply classroom knowledge in a real world setting. In addition to operations, I manage our theater's TikTok account, where I analyze engagement data, plan content, and promote upcoming films. This role has strengthened my understanding of marketing strategies and audience engagements. As I pursue my degree in Business Administration, this experience has provided a strong foundation in leadership, operations, marketing, and customer service. More importantly, this experience has shown me that a business is not just about profit, but about people and the impact it has on a community. That perspective is something I will carry with me throughout my education and future career.