



OCTOBER 27TH, 2021 | WEDNESDAY

# CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

Hosted by Isaac Oakeson

## CEA 106 - LIFE OF A CIVIL ENGINEER A YEAR OUT OF SCHOOL WITH CODY SIMS

[The first time Cody Sims appeared on the show](#), he was a college student with an internship position. Now, one year later, [Cody](#) jumps back on to talk about how his life has significantly changed after graduating, passing the FE exam, and starting to work as a full-time civil engineer.

The first milestone in his life after graduation was getting his FE exam done. He mentions that his studying strategy was based on three things: the FE reference handbook, practicing problems, and YouTube videos. He would basically study the theory in the official FE handbook, and then go straight on to do practice problems by himself.

Whenever he ran into a question he simply didn't know how to solve, he would then resort to youtube videos of people solving the same type of questions so that he could understand the reasoning behind them. YouTube channels such as the CEA Youtube Channel, where we work out problems

step-by-step so that you can learn—not memorize—how to solve them. Then, he would go back to the problem and try to solve them by himself again using the tips from the videos. If this wasn't enough, he would resort to the CEA Free Online Community on Facebook. As he said, the chances of someone mentioning the solution to a question in the comments is really high!

On the exam day, he took a test-taking approach that most of his professors told him not to take. To tackle a question he didn't know how to solve, his professors advised him to make a "smart guess" and move on. However, he simply flagged them and moved on to the ones he knew how to solve. Then, after answering all the questions he was 100% confident with, he went back to those flagged questions, chose the ones he could solve with a bit more time, and then simply made a smart guess on the others he simply didn't know at all. Since he passed his FE exam on the first try, this strategy may be a good alternative.

Once he got the FE done, he went on to look for a job as an engineer. Using his past experiences as an intern at the [Arkansas Department of Transportation](#), he landed a temporary job in Fayetteville. However, he decided to quit after a few months because he simply didn't identify with the culture of the company. After that, he got the job he's at right now at [McClellan Consulting Engineers](#), working in the land development sector.

As a consequence of landing these jobs, he also shares a ton of valuable information about how people, especially recent graduates, should look for and apply for a job. According to him, the most important thing people can have is connections with other people. It's all about knowing people in your industry and staying in touch with them. As an example, he got his job at McClellan because two people who graduated with him worked there.

As a recent graduate himself, he gives some tips on how other people about to graduate can set themselves up for success in their professional life. And one of the key things is to first, be happy because you made it through the four years of school; and second, take risks. As he says, *"If you don't take risks in life, you're never going to reap the rewards of the risk."*

## CEA Partners & Resources:

Engineer2Entrepreneur - [Link](#)

PPI - [Link](#)

[CEA Website](#) - If you need exams, solved problems, or courses, make sure to check out our home base.

Ultimate Civil PE Review Course - [Link](#)

Ultimate Civil FE Review Course - [Link](#)

FE and PE Practice Exams - [Link](#)

[CEA Youtube Channel](#) - Check out our Youtube Channel for more content, live sessions, and much more!

[CEA Community](#) - Haven't joined up on our free community? What's wrong with you? J/K. Ok, just go there and join a group of like-minded civil engineers!

[CEA Newsletter](#) - Join over 4000 engineers like you and learn the tips and tricks to passing the FE and PE. We even have a free resource for you!

Reach out to Isaac - [isaac@civilengineeringacademy.com](mailto:isaac@civilengineeringacademy.com)

@CivilEngAcad

Civil Engineering Academy

[www.civilengineeringacademy.com](http://www.civilengineeringacademy.com)

