

Life Lessons

Salvador Bezos has seen firsthand how high school studies can help build a solid foundation for a career.

As a student at W.T. Woodson High School, Sal took classes in pre-engineering and research & development engineering. These classes helped prepare him for a computer engineering degree from Virginia Tech—which then led to a master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering from Georgia Tech.

Thanks to those academic credentials, Sal went to work immediately after college as a senior software manager for General Dynamics, one of the world’s largest defense contractors.

Now pursuing a law degree through night school, Sal looks back at his high school years and observes that “the engineering courses prepared me for college by showing me the myriad challenges available to engineers — and they prepared me for life by helping me meet those challenges.”

SALVADOR BEZOS
Student Associate,
Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.

High School: W.T. Woodson High School

CTE Programs Studied: Pre-Engineering, Research & Development Engineering

Additional Studies/Training: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT) (B.S. Computer Engineering, minor in Computer Science and Mathematics), Georgia Tech (M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering), George Mason Law School (Intellectual Property Law)

Patent Attorney

The job of patent attorney blends the very distinct disciplines of engineering and law. An engineering background is essential because the patent attorney must be able to discern minute details of a product’s design—and then be able to defend that design from a legal standpoint.

Electives to take in high school

- Business Law
- Design and Technology
- Pre-Engineering
- Engineering Systems I & II
- Physics of Technology

What to study after high school

This demanding career requires a fair amount of preparation, including earning a bachelor’s degree, completing appropriate engineering studies, passing a law school admission test (LSAT), and graduating from an approved law school. (In Virginia, students may also graduate from a three-year law reader program, supervised by a licensed attorney.) Finally, to become a lawyer, the student must also pass the Virginia Bar Exam.