

“My Multidisciplinary Engineering degree led me to my dream Industrial Design job” - Kelly Russell

I was drawn to SharkNinja because of their emphasis on both industrial design and engineering. Creating consumer products and appliances was always a dream of mine, because it combined innovative technology and user driven design. My degree gave me confidence that I was able to check every box of the job requirements. From focusing on aesthetics and ergonomics, to rapid prototyping and building, I felt completely prepared for this role, which ultimately helped me land the job.

My MDE Industrial Design degree gave me an extra edge that full mechanical engineers or full industrial designers didn't have. I had all the foundational knowledge to tackle the more technical side of the job, but also the creativity and innovativeness it takes to create new ideas for products. At UConn I was taught how products work through the laws of science, as well as why we should be creating them and how each user will interact with the product. In SharkNinja advanced develop-



ment, we often have to play the role of many different people in order to build a story for our ideas. We have to prove that it will work mechanically, but also that it is something our consumers will buy.

My industrial design courses taught me how to work with my hands and prototype my ideas. They also taught me how to put myself in the shoes of the user to create a product that



will benefit them the most and ask the right questions to truly understand their problems. At UConn, I learned how to use Solidworks, shop tools, 3D printing, and sketching to communicate my ideas. The emphasis on sharing ideas with my classmates made me receptive to feedback and comfortable working in an extremely collaborative environment that is built on feedback from cross functional teams. Having a curious mind and taking things apart to figure out how they work, has made me a good designer.

-- Kelly Russell (Class of 2024)



This photo is from a recent student visit to SharkNinja. Kelly and Lauren Shortall from the Early Talent Relations & Recruiting Team talked to our students about internship, co-op, and job opportunities as well as gave us a tour of the facility and time with the Advanced Development Team.