Agenda

• Introduction
• What is Product Management?
• Day-to-day duties as a Product Manager
• Breaking into Product Management
• Recruitment and interviewing tips
• Q&A
Introduction

- Graduated in 2013 with B.S. in ISE from UW
- Graduated in 2015 with M.S. in Engineering Management from Dartmouth College
- Started as an Commodity Trading Analyst at Tricon Energy in Houston, TX after Masters – 2 years
- Currently working as a Product Manager at Amazon – 1 year
What do you think Product Managers do?

- CEO of the product
- Responsible for decisions and drive team from start to finish
- Communication, find the right person to talk to
- Take all the blames and give away all the credits
- Not just for Software, Hardware also
What is Product Management

• What are the common positions in tech company?
  • Software Engineer
  • Program Manager/Project Manager
  • Technical Program Manager
  • Data Engineer
  • Business Analyst
  • UI Designer......

• Why do companies need PMs?
  • To open and close a conversation
  • Cross functional leader, wears multiple hats
  • Sell the ideas!
Skills needed to be an effective Product Manager

• **Sell!**
  - Lots of responsibilities but very little authority, how to convince people to work hard on things you care about
  - Lead through showing analysis, having clear visions, inspiring your team

• **Deliver!**
  - Learn to let go, because EVERY problem is complicated
  - Learn to say no, because you will never get things done

• **Gain trust!**
  - Be there!
  - Acknowledge success

• **Don’t easily give up!**
Current Role

• **Product Manager for Fast Track**

• **Day-to-day job**
  • Meetings…. A lot of them
  • Meet customers to understand what the problem are and how do we solve it?
  • Understand trade-offs Speed vs. Scale
Breaking into Product Management

- Undergrad → Job → MBA → Product Manager
- Undergrad → Software Engineer/Business Analyst/Program Manager/ etc. → Product Manager
- Undergrad → Associate Product Manager
But how...

• Your first job does not matter!
  • Be a domain expert

• Side project is always a good idea
  • Take initiatives and build something from scratch
  • Practice selling your ideas to others

• Network
  • Alumni
  • Career Fair
Things I found that are useful:

- Youtube
- Books
- Podcast
- Glassdoor
- Be curious
Recruitment and Interviewing Tips

• Career fair, duh..

• Networking, not just look for a job, but learn about their jobs

• Apply to as many positions as you can!
  • www.jobs.amazon.com
Recruitment and Interviewing Tips

• Each Company has their own bars for hiring PMs
Recruitment and Interviewing Tips

What companies want to test you on:

• Analytical skills – Quick & scrappy analysis

• Problem solving – Case studies

• Behavioral – past experience to demonstrate you are a team player, and have a good track record of success

• Leadership – influence your peers without authority
In general, for interviews..

• You can get things done quickly while maintain high quality of work

• Eager to learn and able to teach others

• Not shy away from taking ownership, “that’s not my job”
Q&A