

Ben Gratsch

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI | Senior – Graduating Fall 2023

Packaging Major, Business Minor | GPA: 3.93, Packaging GPA: 4.0

EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Michigan State University, Aug 2023-Present, East Lansing, MI

- Collaborating with a research team to explore new possibilities of paper alternatives made from food waste

Packaging Engineer Co-Op, Steelcase, Jan-July 2022, Grand Rapids, MI

- Designed the first knockdown pack for Qivi chair, saving approximately \$55,000 annually due to cube improvement
- Conducted extreme drop tests for Think chairs experiencing problems with backs breaking. Was able to find a solution and significantly reduce DPPM, saving approximately \$72,000 annually
- Juggled cost, ease of distribution/handling, and customer experience with multiple chair packs, including a side-loading FOL fully assembled pack and a knockdown partially assembled pack
- Handled relationships with multiple suppliers and designers to acquire samples, quotes, and part drawings
- Collaborated with test engineers to test different pack styles to ISTA 3A and Amazon 6 standards to allow them to ship through FedEx and Amazon, respectively
- Supported engineers transitioning from SAP to Windchill by creating simple, legible guides and transferring existing parts
- Released multiple packaging engineering change notices to add, deviate, obsolete and change parts in multiple plants
- Created detailed cyclical standard work on Excel sheets and in videos to teach operators how to pack products
- Tended to issues on the plant floor including creating, altering, and implementing packaging for obscure products that had no packs assigned to them
- Searched for, recorded, investigated, and solved packaging damages in local distribution center on a weekly basis
- Continuously tweaked high-volume FedEx knockdown chair pack to address damages such as corrugated dust and marring
- Familiarized with corrugated (RSC, HSC, FPF, OPF, FOL, Trays, Telescoping, Special Scored Sheets), foam (EPP and EPS corners, sheets, and noodles), bags, banding, honeycomb, chipboard, and stretch wrap
- Mastered the in-house box making machine, Packsize, to deliver packaging to lines during stock outs or box failures

ACTIVITIES & SKILLS

- SAP, Windchill, CAPE, Packsize, Outlook, Excel
- Coalition of Packaging Professionals and Academic Connections (CoPPAC)
- Michigan State University Education Abroad – Packaging in the United Kingdom
- Michigan State University Pickleball Club