

Dominican grad working at NBC Universal in New York

"It's just too perfect the way it is happening and I can't be anything but grateful," Chinchilla says.

Her good fortune is the product of hard work and persistence and it started during her freshman year at Dominican when she was encouraged to apply for an internship at NBC. She connected with Anne Nicholas, Vice President of Affiliate Marketing, who flew to San Francisco to interview Chinchilla then eventually hired her.

Chinchilla spent the first seven months at the start of her junior year at Dominican working for NBC. She was the liaison between network and local NBC affiliates responsible for coordinating On-Air talents – local and network – and distributing promotional video, graphics about NBC shows such as *Saturday Night Live* and Sunday and Thursday night football.

"I was working at 30 Rock the first day and didn't even take a tour," Chinchilla says. "It was a whole new world that I had no idea about."

But Chinchilla was prepared. She adjusted to her first big job in the Big Apple.

"I was truly a different person there. Everyone is working as hard if not harder than you. You have to be the most resourceful, most sharp, the most productive self you can be," she says. "I had to work with professionals and have responsibilities and know exactly what I was doing."

Her communication skills from Dominican came in handy.

"I really learned to talk and engage the people who were around me," Chinchilla says. "I learned to find my own answers."

It was tough having to say good-bye to New York after her internship ended. Yet Chinchilla was determined to finish her degree at Dominican in [Communications and Media Studies](#) and become the first in her immediate family to graduate from college. She returned to Dominican and took a colloquium class – Sense of Psychology and Place -- with Mairi Pileggi, director of the [Gender Studies](#) program, and [psychology](#) professor Lee Ann Bartolini. The class explored how location helps change one as a person. The timing of the class as well as the result was perfect for Chinchilla.

"It was completely ironic how I was able to take that class and figure it all out," she says.

Chinchilla engrossed herself into Dominican. She earned an internship with KQED and joined [Dominican's student broadcast team](#) with the San Rafael Pacifics' minor league baseball team last summer. She also participated in an [Engaged Immersion](#) Experience trip to El Salvador through [Campus Ministry](#). In addition, for her senior project, Chinchilla created a mock phone application, called Scenik, which connects users with a wide variety of outdoor events in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Chinchilla took advantage of all networking opportunities at Dominican, while establishing bonds with fellow students, faculty and staff at the University who became her friends and advocates.

"Dominican has shaped me in so many ways that is so special and so true to this institution. You can't get anywhere else and I'm just realizing that," Chinchilla says. "After talking to people who have graduated from other colleges, I feel Dominican has a tangible sense of self and sense of character that you really feel here. There is such a tight knit community and the students you go to class with and the faculty who are fostering these classes are just true to themselves and so genuine.

"Being at a college and campus so rich in character made the difference for me."

Then, in March, Chinchilla's received a phone call out of the blue during her job at the Apple store in Corte Madera that impacted her career path. Anne Nicholas contacted her and encouraged her to apply for the marketing coordinator position at NBC Universal. After a series of eight interviews by phone and Skype,

Chinchilla was hired. She left for New York on June 2 and started work at NBC Universal at 30 Rockefeller Plaza where she is training interns and has a permanent position in the bi-costal department. She sat in on a marketing meeting for *The Today Show* on her first day. Chinchilla is in a New York state of mind again.

“This time is a lot different. Last time I was ready to go and it couldn’t come fast enough,” Chinchilla says. “This time -- because I found a zone of comfortability at Dominican -- it’s a lot harder. I’m very lucky and super excited but it’s harder to leave. It’s a lot more permanent and it wasn’t something that I was planning for. But I know this happened for a reason, and I’m ready to grow.”