Job Search Strategy

Your Name: Aarya Patil　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**Date:** December 10, 2025

List your career goals

Using the SMART goal method, here are my 3-4 Career goals:

1. **Secure a Software Engineering Co-op for Summer 2026:** Obtain a software engineering co-op position focusing on front-end development, UI/UX design, or full-stack development at a leading tech company by February 2026, leveraging my technical skills and design background to contribute to user-facing applications.

2. **Enhance Technical Skills and Problem-Solving Abilities:** Complete 50 LeetCode problems (mix of Easy and Medium difficulty) and build one substantial individual project by March 2026 to strengthen my algorithmic thinking and demonstrate advanced technical competency for competitive internship positions.

3. **Expand Knowledge in Human-Computer Interaction and UI/UX:** Deepen my understanding of HCI principles and advanced UI/UX methodologies by completing relevant coursework at Northeastern and applying these concepts to real-world projects by December 2026, positioning myself as a well-rounded software engineer with strong design sensibilities.

4. **Establish a Career Path in Tech and Design:** Build a professional foundation through co-op experiences and networking that will lead to a full-time Software Engineer position upon graduation in December 2027, specializing in front-end development or full-stack roles at companies that value both technical excellence and innovative design.

List your experience, skills and strengths

Top 5 Skills with Examples:

1. **Database Management** - Designed and implemented a normalized relational database for a restaurant analytics system using MySQL on Aiven cloud platform. Built star schema datamarts following Kimball Dimensional Table approach, created ETL pipelines to extract data from SQLite and CSV files, and optimized query performance through strategic indexing and partitioning for fast analytical queries.

2. **Front-End Development** - Developed full-stack applications during my internship at Vishwaguru Infotech, with emphasis on creating interactive and responsive user interfaces using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Angular. Successfully improved application usability by implementing user-friendly design principles and responsive layouts that enhanced accessibility across multiple platforms.

3. **UI/UX Design** - Created comprehensive user interface designs for a restaurant management system, focusing on intuitive navigation and user experience. Applied design thinking principles to develop interfaces that balance aesthetic appeal with functional efficiency, resulting in improved user engagement and satisfaction.

4. **Full-Stack Development** - Built a complete calendar application as part of coursework, im-

plementing both front-end interfaces and back-end functionality. Integrated multiple features including event scheduling, timezone support, and iCal export capabilities, demonstrating ability to handle end-to-end application development.

5. **Problem Solving** - Consistently approach complex technical challenges methodically, breaking down problems into manageable components. Applied this skill across various projects from debugging code issues to architecting database schemas and optimizing application performance.

Top 5 Strengths with Examples:

1. **Leadership** - Served as Chief of Media for IOIT TENET 2024, managing media operations and promotions for the college's flagship festival featuring technical, entrepreneurship, and MUN events. Additionally led as Basketball Team Captain and held the position of USG Global Communications at IOIT MUN 2023, demonstrating consistent ability to guide teams and manage complex initiatives.

2. **Adaptability** - Demonstrated strong ability to blend in quickly with new teams and adapt to different work environments. Successfully transitioned from academic projects to professional internship settings, quickly learning new technologies and workflows while maintaining productivity and positive team dynamics.

3. **Communication** - Effectively managed external communications in multiple media team roles, coordinating between different stakeholders and ensuring clear, consistent messaging. Skilled at translating technical concepts to diverse audiences and facilitating smooth information flow within teams and to external parties.

4. **Teamwork** - Consistently contribute meaningfully to group projects while supporting team members' success. Collaborated effectively on multiple group projects including the Oncofusion cancer detection framework and E-Wallet application, ensuring balanced workload distribution and collective achievement of project goals.

5. **Creativity** - Always strive to bring innovative and fresh perspectives to projects and problem-solving. Whether designing user interfaces, architecting database solutions, or approaching technical challenges, I consistently seek creative solutions that go beyond conventional approaches, resulting in unique and effective outcomes.

Create your list of companies you'd like to work for

My top 8 companies and why I would like to work for them:

1. **Disney** - I have been a lifelong Disney enthusiast and would be thrilled to contribute to creating magical experiences for millions of users. Disney's streaming platforms (Disney+, Hulu) and theme park applications require sophisticated front-end development and database management to handle massive scale. The opportunity to work on user interfaces that bring stories to life, combined with Disney's renowned work culture and commitment to innovation in entertainment technology, makes this my dream company. Their focus on seamless user experiences across multiple platforms aligns perfectly with my skills in front-end development and UI/UX design.

2. **Amazon** - Amazon's massive scale and technical complexity present incredible learning opportunities in database optimization, distributed systems, and front-end development. Working

on products like Amazon.com, AWS Console, or Prime Video would allow me to impact millions of users daily while solving challenging technical problems. Amazon's leadership principles emphasize customer obsession and innovation, which resonates with my approach to building user-centered applications. The exposure to cutting-edge technologies and the opportunity to work on systems that operate at unprecedented scale would accelerate my growth as a software engineer.

3. **Google** - Google's commitment to creating intuitive, accessible products that serve billions of users worldwide aligns with my passion for front-end development and design. The opportunity to work on products like Google Search, Gmail, or Google Cloud Console would provide exposure to sophisticated UI/UX challenges and massive-scale database systems. Google's engineering culture emphasizes innovation, technical excellence, and data-driven decision making, offering an ideal environment to grow my skills in both design and backend systems. Additionally, their investment in Material Design and web technologies demonstrates a commitment to advancing the front-end ecosystem.

4. **Apple** - Apple's legendary focus on design excellence and seamless user experiences makes it the ideal company for someone passionate about both aesthetics and functionality. Working on products like the Apple Developer Portal, iCloud web interfaces, or internal tools would allow me to contribute to the ecosystem that sets industry standards for user interface design. Apple's emphasis on privacy, performance, and attention to detail aligns with my values as a developer. The opportunity to work with cutting-edge web technologies while maintaining Apple's high standards for quality would push me to become a better engineer and designer.

5. **Figma** - As a design-first company that has revolutionized how teams collaborate on interface design, Figma represents the perfect intersection of my interests in UI/UX and software engineering. Working at Figma would allow me to contribute to tools that empower designers and developers worldwide. The technical challenges of building a real-time collaborative design platform, combined with the need for intuitive user interfaces, align perfectly with my skills in front-end development and database management. Figma's culture of design thinking and technical innovation would provide an inspiring environment to develop my craft.

6. **Canva** - Canva democratizes design by making professional-quality design tools accessible to everyone, a mission that deeply resonates with me. The technical complexity of building an intuitive drag-and-drop interface that handles millions of design elements while maintaining performance is exactly the kind of challenge I want to tackle. Working at Canva would allow me to combine my passion for UI/UX design with full-stack development skills to create tools that empower users worldwide. Their growth trajectory and commitment to innovation in design technology make them an exciting company to grow with.

7. **Meta** - Meta's social platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp) present fascinating challenges in front-end optimization, real-time data synchronization, and user interface design at unprecedented scale. The opportunity to work on features that connect billions of people daily, combined with Meta's investment in cutting-edge technologies like React (which they created), makes it an attractive destination for a front-end focused engineer. Additionally, their work in AR/VR and the metaverse represents the future of user interfaces, offering unique opportunities to shape next-generation interaction paradigms. Meta's culture of moving fast and building impactful products aligns with my ambitious career goals.

8. **Microsoft** - Microsoft's transformation under modern leadership and their commitment to developer tools (VS Code, GitHub, Azure) makes them an exciting place for engineers who care

about both product quality and developer experience. Working on products like Microsoft 365 web apps, Azure Portal, or developer tools would provide exposure to enterprise-scale applications while working with modern web technologies. Microsoft's investment in accessibility, design systems (Fluent UI), and cross-platform development aligns with my interests in creating inclusive, well-designed applications. Their culture of growth mindset and continuous learning would provide an environment where I can develop both technical and leadership skills.

Create a "to-do" list prior to starting your job search

My top 5 items to accomplish with realistic completion dates:

1. **Research top 5 companies in detail** - *Deadline: January 25, 2026*

   Deep dive into Disney, Amazon, Google, Apple, and Figma to understand their tech stacks, engineering blogs, recent product launches, and internship programs. Review company culture through Glassdoor, Blind, and LinkedIn. Identify specific teams or products that align with my skills in front-end development and database management. Compile notes on each company's interview process and technical requirements.

2. **Start applying to Summer 2026 internships** - *Deadline: February 1, 2026*

   Begin submitting applications to target companies as soon as their internship postings open. Tailor resume and cover letters for each application, emphasizing relevant projects and skills. Track all applications in a spreadsheet with company names, positions, application dates, and follow-up actions. Aim to submit at least 2-3 quality applications per week through March.

3. **Practice behavioral interview questions** - *Deadline: February 15, 2026*

   Prepare compelling stories using the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) for common behavioral questions. Focus on experiences from internships, group projects (Oncofusion, E-Wallet), leadership roles (Chief of Media, Basketball Captain), and coursework challenges. Practice responses to questions about teamwork, conflict resolution, leadership, adaptability, and technical challenges. Conduct mock interviews with peers or career services.

4. **Complete 50 LeetCode problems (Easy/Medium mix)** - *Deadline: March 15, 2026*

   Build strong problem-solving foundation by completing 50 LeetCode problems with focus on arrays, strings, hashmaps, trees, and basic algorithms. Start with 20 Easy problems to build confidence, then progress to 30 Medium problems. Document approaches and solutions for review. Practice explaining solutions out loud to prepare for technical interviews. Aim for consistent practice of 3-4 problems per week.

5. **Attend 3 networking events** - *Deadline: April 30, 2026*

   Participate in Northeastern Spring Career Fair (February/March 2026), attend at least two Khoury College networking events throughout spring semester, and join one Boston-area tech networking meetup or company info session. Prepare elevator pitch and bring updated resumes. Follow up with connections made at each event via LinkedIn within 48 hours. Set goal to have meaningful conversations with at least 5-7 recruiters or engineers at each event.

What is your professional brand?

Professional Introduction (Elevator Pitch):

Hi, I'm Aarya Patil, a Master's student in Computer Science at Northeastern University's Khoury College, where I'm building on my Bachelor's in Computer Engineering from Pune University. I'm passionate about the intersection of software engineering and design, which is why I've focused my career on front-end development and UI/UX.

I bring a unique blend of technical skills and design mindset to every project I work on. My experience spans from building normalized database systems and cloud-based datamarts to creating responsive, user-friendly interfaces using modern web technologies like Angular and JavaScript.

One project I'm particularly proud of is Oncofusion, a multi-model machine learning framework I developed with my team for early cancer detection. We combined ensemble learning techniques with generative AI to improve diagnostic accuracy, demonstrating my ability to tackle complex technical challenges while keeping the end-user experience in focus.

I've also gained professional experience as a Software Engineering Intern at Vishwaguru Infotech, where I developed full-stack applications with a strong emphasis on front-end development, improving application usability through thoughtful design principles and responsive layouts.

Beyond my technical work, I've demonstrated leadership as Chief of Media for major college events and as Basketball Team Captain, showing that I can effectively manage teams and communicate across diverse groups.

I'm currently seeking a Summer 2026 co-op opportunity in software engineering, particularly in roles that combine front-end development, UI/UX design, or full-stack development. I'm excited to bring my technical expertise and creative approach to a team that values building exceptional user experiences.

Participate in networking opportunities

List of 3 Networking events I plan to attend:

1. **Northeastern Spring 2026 Career Fair** - The university's largest career fair, typically held in February or March, where I can connect with recruiters from top tech companies including many of my target companies like Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Meta. This event provides an excellent opportunity to learn about summer internship opportunities, understand company cultures, and make direct connections with hiring managers. I will prepare by researching attending companies in advance, bringing multiple copies of my resume, and practicing my elevator pitch.

2. **Khoury College Computer Science Networking Events** - Throughout the spring 2026 semester, Khoury College hosts various networking events, tech talks, and company information sessions specifically for CS students. These intimate settings provide better opportunities for meaningful conversations with engineers and recruiters, often featuring alumni who can provide insider perspectives on companies and career paths. I plan to attend at least two such events to build relationships within the Khoury network and learn about the specific technical skills companies are seeking.

3. **Boston Tech Networking Meetup** - Boston's thriving tech scene offers numerous meetups

and networking events focused on front-end development, UI/UX design, and full-stack engineering. I will identify and attend at least one Boston-area networking event, such as a Boston JavaScript meetup, Boston Front-End Developers gathering, or a design-focused event, to expand my professional network beyond campus, learn about local tech trends, and potentially discover opportunities at Boston-based companies like HubSpot or Wayfair.