# Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

**Points possible:** 50

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| **Category** | **Criteria** | **% of Grade** |
| **Completeness** | All requirements of the assignment are complete. | 50 |
| **Quality** | Answers show thought, proper grammar, and would be acceptable in most interview situations. | 50 |

**Instructions:** Find a job post online for a role and company you would like to apply for. Answer the following questions as if you were being interviewed for the job. Research the STAR method of answering behavioral interview questions and where applicable, utilize the STAR method in answering the below questions.

**How did you hear about this position?** (Make sure you remember where you heard about the role so it doesn’t look like you are just applying randomly to every position possible.)

Actually, while I found this job by searching for the Linux admin and Linux developer jobs in the Denver area on Indeed and other sites, this position and this company in particular stood out to me. This one in particular stood out to me because it is with a college, and so I figured that there might be more ways for my skills in learning and academia to come out in this job, either regarding the problems that need creative solutions or regarding the social context. I understand a lot of the needs of students, professors, and administrators, and I believe this understanding of multiple perspectives is an asset.

**What do you know about the company?** (Research the company, website, products/services, and reviews. Talk about good reviews that make you want to join.)

What’s more, my daughter was born at the Anschutz campus in Aurora almost 4 years ago, and my wife and I really loved our experience at the hospital. Last year, I stayed with the same daughter for about a week on the Anschutz Medical Campus while we tried to figure out some health concerns. (I also remember going to the Anschutz campus a couple times with my mom when I was a kid.) I have to say that in my personal experience, I’m very impressed. I really felt that my daughter was being taken care of, that all the avenues were being explored by a number of experts, that they did a really good job of being thorough in their work, communicating with us often, and really taking care of my little girl.

Along with those very positive personal experiences, I can also say that Colorado University - between the Boulder Campus and the Anschutz Medical Campus - is reputable, that you have very nice buildings and excellent staff. But I also am drawn by what look to be nice benefits and good pay - pay that matches what I need for my family and the skills I've been pushing myself to learn. Also, the tuition options - which I'm a big fan of since I'm pretty serious about being a life-long learner – I can imagine a number of ways I would love to engage with Colorado University regarding all of this and more.

**Why do you want this job?** (Be very specific. Talk about what appeals to you about the role but focus more on the value you’ll add to the team and company rather than what the company will do for you.)

I have to admit that I am pretty new to working in

[the below answer needs to connect more with the specific job responsibilities; also... brevity?]

I really love Linux and bash - I think I get the most excited about those two than any of the other things I've done regarding coding. So when I started looking more seriously for coding jobs, I made sure to include Linux jobs in the search. Not to mention that I love colleges and places that try to foster an environment of care, discussion, courtesy and learning. Again, I like that I have had the personal expereinces with CU that I've had. Overall, it seems like a pretty good fit for the person I am. [I also get the impression from what I've heard, experienced, and found when I looked, that between the dual CU cultures of Boulder and Anschutz, I will not be disrespected for being neurodivergent, and that matters a lot to me.]

**Why should we hire you?** (Be very specific. Talk about your skills, passion, and willingness to continuously learn to be an asset.)

The reason why you should hire me is above all that I really care about people and thinking things through carefully. I have been called “deep” more consistently than anything else in my life; while I have discovered in the last year or so that I am neurodivergent, which does mean that sometimes I need extra time to process things, I have also had it made very clear to me from a number of sources that I really am very intelligent – moreso than I had realized.

I taught myself philosophy, analytical and critical thinking, German, the Japanese writing system. I collected over 20 mostly free fairly rich resources for learning how to code, and have cobbled together my own kind of library of learning resources. I am very capable of turning to research when I don’t know the answer to a question.

very resourceful, taught myself how to learn, then how to teach others; taught myself analytical and critical thinking, philosophy, taught myself German and more languages; bash, CPP, web dev

-My personal and work experiences make me somewhat familiar with many different aspects of CU's culture, clients and their needs. For instance, my experience as a caregiver for the elderly and special needs community, as well as with tutoring, learning and teaching others how to learn, are bonuses for connecting me to the CU culture. Along with my personal experiences with my family at the Anschutz campus. -- I have a personality that considers seriously how to care and seeks cultures of thought and care.

**What is your greatest professional achievement?** (STAR)

-list major achievements relative to professional work

-Inlow Baptist Camp

-writing a book of poems

-teaching myself German/how to Code

-Promineo Tech bootcamp

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**Describe a difficult work situation and how you overcame it.** (STAR. Never speak negatively about anyone else or any companies. Perhaps talk about change you experiences, as change is always difficult to overcome.)

-calming down John

-dealing with rumors at work?

-the last year - - unemployed in the pandemic, just barely above homeless and feeling like I had no idea what to do with my life. Then getting involved in Manna Connect with a career coach, then a therapist and marriage therapist, Psychiatrist (2-3), Neurocognitive Testing, much needed Medications, Spiritual Director, lots of learning to code, lots of persistence and not giving up; courses like Udemy courses; Promineo Tech Bootcamp; [perhaps Nxt Level];

**What are your goals for the future?** (Make sure you answer in a time bound manner and talk about how you are looking to learn as much as possible in your field.)

I have some goals which are time-bound, and some which are constant and present throughout all my goals. Some of these later goals are that I really want to be present with my family, teaching them, learning with them, rock-climbing and exploring with them. I also feel a need, when others are open to it, for me to share what little I have learned about how to have peace that helps me to think carefully about how to go forward. I want to influence the future and learn with others how to steer each other away from escalating conflicts and related dangers in the modern technological landscape. Lastly, I want to learn lots about how to speak languages like Japanese, Welsh, Chinese and others, and how to connect with others and bridge cultural and linguistic gaps.

Turning to my more specific and time-bound goals, however, I would start by saying that in the next year especially (probably the next 2-4 years), I want to accumulate more experience, skills, and certificates working with coding languages and frameworks such as bash, Linux, C++, Server Administration, Full Stack Web Development, and overall design - including really taking ethics and visuals into serious consideration.

Over a longer period of time, say 4-10 years, it has been my goal increasingly for a number of years now to learn as much as possible about the history and future of technology so I can help have some kind of insight into what wisdom might look like in how we relate to technology in a world that is always evolving. This is evidenced in part by some of my writings in a blog I started about ethics, tech, spirituality, and language ( perilousresonance.wordpress.com/ ). I hope to eventually write and publish books on related topics (starting in the nearer future with publishing a book of poems I already wrote in college).

In the further future, something like 7-20 years, I have thought more and more about starting two non-profit organizations. The first would be a center for thinking about the complicated intersections of ethics, spirituality, and modern technology. The second would be a kind of peace center that would seek ways to help people de-escalate difficult situations, especially to help people see what actions are more likely to escalate and potentially cause violence. Both of these ideas have been growing on me for awhile, but I have a lot to learn about them.

I surprised myself just now when I realized that I can confidently say that I have been working - steadily, concretely, and increasingly - towards fulfilling these goals for years now.

**Why are you leaving your last job?** (Don’t say anything negative. Mention growth, changing industries, etc.)

The older I've gotten, the more I've realized that I am not using my skills the way I ought to be, and am not pursuing the life that I really want to live, and that furthermore, I haven't even been in any of the right industries to get close to doing that. I want to use a lot of my skills to really start taking care of my family here in Colorado and making the most of my life, so I've been increasingly pursuing learning how to code for the last two years or so and increasingly teaching myself to approach it as a deep thinker - not just thinking about the code, but about the ideas and realities that underlie modern technology and what responsibilities might come along with those. I love language, logic, learning and teaching, Ubuntu, bash, code ...

**What is your salary expectation?**

$70,000 - $80,000 / year.