# CSE 300 – Informational Interview Report

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## Instructions

During this semester you need to complete three informational interviews. Once you have completed an interview, use this form to report on it.

## Basic information

Fill out the following information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Who did you interview? | Michael Hegner |
| Where do they work? (or are they self-employed) | Currently Freelance, but previously was at Standard Beagle Studio |
| What is their current position? | Full Stack Developer |
| When did you meet? (date) | 5/23/2025 |
| How did you meet?  (in person, Zoom, etc.) | Zoom |

## Questions

1. In 1-2 paragraphs, describe their story. How did this person get to where they are now?

Before entering software engineering, Michael started with recording engineering and performing music. He learned how to listen, collaborate, and translate abstract ideas into meaningful outcomes. He was drawn to technology, and spent time looking into full stack web development. He attended a bootcamp at University of Richmond where he learned skills like React.js. He worked on projects like a Budget Planner and helped redesign the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan’s website and has been in the industry since.

2. What are the three most valuable insights you learned from this interview?

A) Collaboration is important.

B) Being creative is good, but learning to make something useful with that creativity is better.

C) Being open to learning is a good way to always learn more.

3. What was this person’s first position in this field and how did they get started with it? (For example, they might be a vice president now, but how did they first get started in this area?)

First position was the national kidney foundation’s site, and it came through networking and passion. A friend that worked for the site came to him with the task of modernizing the site and he jumped in.

4. What does this person do that you find exciting?

He let’s his passion for music and technology come through.

5. What does this person do that you might not enjoy?

He is currently freelance, where he finds projects himself rather than working at a company, and I don’t think that is for me.

6. When you asked for an assignment from them, what did they say?

Create a full stack application that solves a problem that I personally care about in a MERN stack.

7. What are your plans for following up with them after the interview?

Reaching out on LinkedIn and over email to check in with progress.

8. (Optional) Is there anything else from this experience that you would like to share?

I actually know Michael from the University of Richmond bootcamp that we both went to, and I think it’s cool to see that he is actually in the field just with the knowledge that he gained there.