

### **Career Aspirations and Professional Goals**

As an Information Science major at the University of South Florida, my academic journey has been centered around understanding data and the software that handles and produces it. My passion for problem-solving and the creation of digital platforms has stemmed from a young age and in turn has led me to pursue a career in software engineering. This field is paired very closely with my educational path, as it combines technical knowledge with creativity to develop applications and systems that can be used by individuals and businesses. I chose software development because of the challenge of problem solving and the ability to build something from the ground-up. I have had a lifetime interest in Software Engineering since I was in middle school, as I was introduced to programming through video game modding and educational programs such as Hour of Code. Looking ahead, I envision myself working as a software engineer, working on the development of applications or systems that solve real-world problems.

I currently work two part-time jobs within his career area, as a web developer for the YMCA and also as an early education programming instructor at multiple Tampa Bay schools. This experience has absolutely geared me towards a future career in software development, as it has provided me with both technical experience as well as instructional experience that will be valuable to me on my professional journey. Through my role as a web developer I have gained experience with frontend and backend development, problem solving, project management, and working with a team to develop a product. Through my role as an educator, I have strengthened my ability to break down complex concepts and overall improve my communication skills which are both invaluable skills in the market. Even beyond these professional roles, I have worked on various personal projects that in turn have enhanced my knowledge in software development and

helped teach me the process of creating a product. While I am still learning more every single day, these experiences have helped me build a strong foundation in software development and design.

I have visited the USF career services website in the past, as it is a great resource to learn about ways to help break into the job market. It contains great tools for building resumes, cover letters, CVS, and has great resources on getting interviews and making networking connections. Despite receiving numerous emails regarding career service events, I have not yet attended one of these meetings. While this is mostly because I have already received a full-time offer out of graduation, looking deeper into some of these events for this paper has made me realize that there is likely still a benefit to going to one of these fairs. While I do have an offer, it could likely be leveraged to achieve a higher paying job starting out, so this is something I will look into. Additionally, I am curious about attending a career chat with a career coach, as I have concerns about the long term job security of this career with the advancements in AI and the massive layoffs.

I have done significant research into my chosen career, as it is one that I have been passionate about for a very long time. Most of this research has been from first hand accounts from colleagues, friends in the industry, and professors. However, I have also done research on the job market and its unsettling future through reading scholarly journals and articles written by professionals within the field.

Towards the future, I want to do my best in my early career while also learning as much as I possibly can in order to maximize my knowledge and maximize my potential within this field. As I continue into the professional world, I plan to continue developing my technical skills

through personal projects and continuous learning. I do recognize the importance of staying adaptable in an industry that evolves rapidly, especially with the rise of AI and automation. While I have secured a job offer upon graduation, I am still planning to use networking opportunities and career development resources to further benefit my early career. My ultimate goal is to establish myself as a skilled and innovative software engineer and to contribute to impactful projects that make a difference. By remaining persistent and open to growth, I am confident that I will not only succeed in this field but also find fulfillment in building software that will be used around the world.