

Event Report

James Bressani

LIS 4934 BSIS Senior Capstone

Dr. Alicia K. Long

October 19th, 2025

Career Fair for AI, Cybersecurity, and Computing Introduction

On October 6th, I was able to attend a career fair for AI, Cybersecurity, and Computing at USF. I had no idea what to expect at the career fair as I have never been to one, but I was ready because I was going with other peers. My goal for the career fair was to look at the many different fields in IT. I believe my degree in Data Science and Analytics sets me up with the ability to flex into many jobs, so I was able to look at many different job types rather than if I was in information systems or computer engineering. With that in mind, I wanted to find a niche that not only I would succeed in, but I would also enjoy. I was told by my mentors that specialization is the most important thing to do in IT, so I wanted to make sure I made the correct choice.

Career Fair

Before I got to the career fair, I had to decide how professional I would dress. Of course you should overdress if possible, but I did not have any suits. This resulted in me going in a dress shirt, tie, pants, and loafers. Dressing professionally also helps with confidence in front of the different recruiters at career fairs.

As I entered the career fair there were many dressed in all types of ways. Dressing professionally was the correct decision. The first booths I went to were Verizon and DTCC. Both companies offered similar types of positions. It looked like they both wanted new grads who would specialize in cloud, networking, cybersecurity, and web development. All of those fields I was interested in. Verizon being a major cell phone carrier made them appealing alongside their major presence in the Tampa Bay area. We found out they were mainly looking for interns, but on the other side DTCC had internships and early career programs.

DTCC offered an 18 month program called the “EDGE Program”. The program had the ability to rotate through different roles and could teach you about the different fields in IT. DTCC is also a major company that plays a major role in the financial market. They move quadrillions in securities transactions. Fintech is something specifically I am interested in because it can take advantage of many of the skills I have learned at school.

One of the longer lines at the career fair was the Honeywell line. I found out the company dabbled in more than just air conditioning. Their brand worked with the military and had aerospace technologies. This was not something I expected and showed that one should look at many different companies while trying to find a job. Many different companies hire for different needs and IT has no shortage of jobs needed.

Going through the career fair showed me which careers were in more demand and that certainly helped my decision. One of the most prominent things at the career fair was the need for AI. Data science is perfect for AI as not only do you learn how to train models, but data cleaning is needed to help train those models. Reliaquest and Uber were some of the companies that really pushed for AI at the career fair.

Conclusion

Going through the career fair showed me that IT is very much in demand and that there are many different fields to specialize in. While I was not able to decide on what I wanted to pick as my specialization, I was able to see how important it is to pick right. Going to career fairs can only help students as it can help students find the many different opportunities that they do not learn about in school.

Event Link

<https://careers.usf.edu/events/2025/10/06/usf-tampa-ai-cybersecurity-computing-career-fair-fall-2025/>