John Bryson

CS 499

4-1 Journal

Part One: Career Reflection

When I started the Computer Science program, I was interested in becoming a software developer. As I went through the courses, I realized I enjoyed building projects that focused more on user experience and functionality. Over time, I became more interested in front-end or full-stack roles. So, while I have not completely changed my career plan, I have shifted my focus based on what I enjoy and where I believe I do my best work.

My thinking about my career has matured. I used to think just learning how to code was enough, but now I understand how important planning, testing, and communication are in a software role. I have researched job listings and talked with people working in the tech field. That research helped me think about future certifications, like cloud or front-end frameworks. I might also investigate a master's degree someday, but I'll let my life settle down after graduation first. So far, I have achieved many of the course outcomes, like developing software projects, working with databases, and applying data structures. I still want to improve on testing and documenting code professionally.

Part Two: ePortfolio Progress Update

For my ePortfolio, I have updated my artifact selections based on how well they show my skills. For software design and engineering, I am still using my Travlr App because it best highlights my full-stack work and my ability to build a full web application. For the algorithms and data structures category, I switched to using the Inventory App I built in CS360. I made this change because the app clearly shows how I implemented sorting, searching, and data management logic. It also looks more polished and shows a more complete project. For databases, I changed my artifact to the Animal Shelter application from CS340. This project better matched what I wanted to highlight on my portfolio site, like relational database design and multiple table joins.

I am making steady progress. I have completed initial enhancements for two of the categories and started final improvements. I still need to polish and upload them to the ePortfolio. I will continue working and reach out for help if I get stuck finishing the final version.

Checkpoint	Software Design and Engineering	Algorithms and Data Structures	Databases
Name of Artifact Used	Travlr App	Inventory App from CS360	Animal Shelter App from CS340
Status of Initial Enhancement	Completed	In Progress	In Progress
Submission Status	Submitted	Not yet submitted	Not yet submitted
Status of Final Enhancement	In Progress	In Progress	Not started
Uploaded to ePortfolio	Yes	Not yet	Not yet
Status of Finalized ePortfolio	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress