

## **Career Fair Report**

Justin Stutler

University of South Florida

LIS: 4934 Senior Capstone

Dr. Richard Austin

February 17, 2024

## **Introduction**

In an effort to find a job for post-graduation, I attended a USF career fair in person. I arrived at the Marshall Student Center about an hour prior to the start of the career fair, so I could print out some copies of my resume to give to members of the fair I connected with. I got my name tag at the check-in station and signed in with a qr-code. I walked up the stairs and took a deep breath before entering the ballroom where all of the tables were.

## **Fair Preparation**

Prior to the fair, I created a list of companies I was interested in from the attending list on handshake. Then, I highlighted each of the companies on a map displaying their location within the ballroom. I used an order of importance ranking system to determine the order of tables I should go to.

## **Fair Experience**

I entered the ballroom to over 100 tables where recruiters and members of companies and organizations stood with lines of students waiting to speak with them. The entire room was packed with students which was a bit overwhelming. I waited in many lines and spoke briefly with many members of the fair. I gave my resume to as many members as I could, but some of the members had me email it to them digitally. All of the members were friendly, although some of my questions eluded them.

## **Questions**

I asked questions about what each company was looking for in a candidate, as well as what the work looked like. I wanted to know exactly what the job was going to be as well as any requirements and benefits. I was looking for remote job offers, but many of the companies required in person working and moving to another place. For example, EPIC Healthcare Solutions had a software engineering position, but it required in person work at their headquarters in Verona, Wisconsin. I also wanted to know what the job specifications were because titles such as software developer and IT guy are broad terms that could encompass a variety of jobs. I was interested in jobs such as full-stack developer, backend developer, frontend developer, database manager, data analysis, data science, quality analysis, project manager, game developer, AI developer, or various other software development roles. I have some experience in most of these areas, but obviously would have much more to learn in every subject. Once I know which area I am working in, I can begin prioritizing my education in that area. I have some experience in full-stack development from my internship, and that would be my preferred role, but I am also open minded to many other options as seen above.

## **Final Thoughts**

The career fair was an interesting experience that taught me more about what companies are looking for in candidates. Although I am unsure I will receive a job offer from this experience, I enjoyed speaking with the members of the fair as well as learning more about the job market. I will be attending the next career fair as well with the same plan in mind.