

Jobs

How Do You Get One?

—
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INTRODUCTION

Getting a job is time-consuming, stressful, and difficult, but definitely possible. This guide is going to focus mainly on Computer Science/Software Engineering jobs for college students and new graduates.

How Should You Prepare?

1. Start Early

It is never too early to start thinking about your future. If you are reading this document, you are in the right place - good job! Your job interview process will take into account everything you have done while at Notre Dame, so the sooner you start, the more you will have to offer.

2. Do well (enough) in school

If you have at least a 3.0 GPA, you're doing fine. If your GPA is below this, then you may need to reevaluate how you are approaching your time at Notre Dame and focus on your schoolwork.

3. Create your resume

When someone reads your resume, they should get a feel for who you are. Yes, include your achievements and your classes, but focus on your interests and your specialties, don't highlight the one math club meeting you attended, write about a fun club that you regularly enjoy. If you feel like your resume is lacking, take a look at the extracurriculars section to get an idea for what you can do to strengthen it, or consult [the career center's website](#) to get started.

4. Practice coding questions

Get together with one of your friends and practice interviewing them. Then have them interview you. You can use online resources such as GeeksForGeeks, LeetCode, or HackerRank to find interview questions and solutions. Coding questions can be difficult, but they also can be learned. If you spend just an hour or two a week doing mock interviews, you will get a much better grasp on both the standard questions asked in technical interviews, as well as the opportunity to be the interviewer. This will allow you to see what interviewers look for in you.

What Extracurriculars Should You Be Doing?

1. Don't do nothing

No, really. Don't overthink this. Which student groups you decide to join, or which sorts of activities you do is not nearly as important (in the job search) as the fact that you are doing *something* outside of classes that you can be proud of. The only exception to this is that computer science related personal projects tend to be especially attractive to companies hiring computer science major, however this does not mean that side projects are required.

2. Enjoy it

It's not necessarily bad to have resume building activities you don't love, but you will find much more fulfillment in activities that you enjoy. You're also more likely to accomplish something great if you find a way to apply your passions. Whether it's going abroad for a semester to improve your language skills, or pushing yourself to new heights by rock climbing, or starting a Counter Strike club with your friends, do what you like.

Networking

1. Use the tools available to you

Here at Notre Dame, you have many networking opportunities available to you. There is GoIrish, the career center and their activities like the career fair, and even alumni that return to campus to visit and speak to classes. The more people you get to know while you are here at Notre Dame, the bigger network that will be available to you once you are in the job market.

2. Don't be afraid to reach out

People within the Notre Dame family are often very happy to help one another. If you are interested in a company, feel free to contact an alumni, or in the future a past peer, to talk about the company, get an invitation to visit the company, and maybe even get a recommendation.