As you complete the Career Preparation Modules and related readings, activities and assignments you have created a Job Search Strategy that is unique to you. Use the following template to document your job search plan at this point in time. As you begin to implement your plan your goals, motivations, job interests, etc. may change. Therefore continue to use this template as way to keep yourself accountable and focused to find a job, employer and career that best fits your needs and is unique to you.

Your Name: Date:

List your career goals. - Module 2 - Using the SMART goal method develop your list of 3-4 Career goals. Insert your 3-4 SMART career goals here.
Goal 1:
Improve my data structures, algorithms, and system design knowledge by practicing LeetCode 5 days per week for at least 1 hour each session, aiming to reach 200+ completed problems by March 2026.
Goal 2:
Complete 2 additional backend-focused portfolio projects by March 2026, showcasing REST APIs, databases, authentication, and deployment skills.
Goal 3:
Attend at least 3 networking events or tech meetups and connect with 20+ professionals by April 2026 to increase my exposure to the industry opportunities

List your experience, skills and strengths. Reflect back on the readings and activities you completed in Module 4 – Build Your Brand. Create a list of your top 5 skills and your top 5 strengths. Include a brief example for at least 3 of your top skills, i.e., how you demonstrated the skill, and a brief example for at least 3 of your top 3 strengths, i.e., how you demonstrated the strength.

Insert your top 3 skills with your examples and your top 3 strengths with examples here.
Top 5 Skills

- **Python** - Built a web scraper that automated data extraction, significantly reducing manual research time.
- **Data Analysis** – Used pandas, NumPy, and Matplotlib for data processing and visualization in academic and personal projects.
- **REST API Development** – Implemented modular, scalable APIs using Flask/Connexion and MongoDB.
- **Object-Oriented Programming (OOP**) - Designed class-based architectures for the Student Grading System, Sudoku Solver, and Spring Boot application, improving modularity and maintainability.
- **Testing & Debugging (Unit Testing, Error Handling) -** Implemented unittest test cases for the Student Grading System and added robust error handling for invalid input, exceptions, and data integrity issues.

Top 5 strengths

- **Adaptability** – Successfully transitioned from animal science and veterinary work into computer science, learning new technologies quickly.

- **Communication** – Communicated clearly with clients and veterinary staff at VCA Hospital, ensuring accurate information flow during treatments and patient care.

- **Attention to Detail** – Ensured code correctness through unit testing (`unittest`) and thorough input validation in the Student Grading System project.

- **Team Collaboration** – Worked in international teams during wildlife volunteer work, often coordinating tasks under busy and unpredictable conditions.

- **Calm Under Pressure** – Developed strong composure while working with animals in clinical or rehabilitation settings; applied this same mindset to debugging and complex coding tasks.

Create your list of companies you'd like to work for from the list you created in Module 3 – Researching the Job Market. Modify the list to include 6-8 companies that interest you the most. This is an opportunity to not only list the companies but also include comments why you would like to work there.

Insert your list of the top 6-8 companies and why you would like to work for them here

1. Google

I'm interested in Google because of its strong engineering culture, large-scale distributed systems, and opportunities to work on backend infrastructure that impacts millions of users.

2. Meta

Meta's focus on backend services, large-scale data pipelines, and high-performance systems aligns with my interest in building reliable and scalable applications.

3. Amazon

Amazon offers extensive opportunities in backend development, microservices, and cloud technologies. Their emphasis on customer-focused engineering also aligns with my values.

4. Microsoft

Microsoft's broad range of products—from Azure cloud services to enterprise tools—makes it an ideal environment to grow as a backend or systems developer.

5. Apple

Apple's commitment to high-quality software, performance, and system-level development fits my interest in clean, maintainable engineering and user-focused design.

6. Tesla

Tesla combines software, hardware, and real-time systems in innovative ways. I'm interested in how software contributes to automation, energy systems, and intelligent technologies.

7. NVIDIA

NVIDIA leads in AI, high-performance computing, and system optimization, which aligns with my interest in backend systems and computational problem solving.

8. LinkedIn

LinkedIn offers opportunities in large-scale backend systems, machine learning infrastructure, and member-facing features in a mission-driven environment.

Create a “to-do” list prior to starting your job search. An effective “to do” list is not just a list of things that you plan to do. Instead it is a list of things you plan to do that includes prioritization and due dates.

Some examples of action items include: researching your top 5 companies of interest to learn more about what they do and their company culture. Or a list of the top 5 job descriptions you plan to research. Or creating a list of your professional references and contacting these references to request permission to use their name and contact information should an employer request your list.

Create a “to do” list of the top 5 items that you plan to accomplish as you start your job search. Set realistic deadlines when each item should be finished so that you are accountable and more likely to complete all tasks. After writing down your "to-do list" items, add the items into a calendar or schedule.

Insert your “to-do” list below. Include realistic dates when you plan to complete each task. Note that this is your “to-do” list at this point in time. As your complete the tasks you will continue to add more to your list.

Update resume and LinkedIn profile – *Complete by Oct 10, 2025*

Create a professional portfolio website – *Complete by Nov 15, 2025*

Finish two new backend projects and upload to GitHub – *Dec 20, 2025*

Practice LeetCode (150 problems) – *Reach goal by Jan 5, 2026*

Apply to at least 8–10 co-op positions weekly – *Start Jan 2026 – ongoing*

What is your professional brand? Refer to Module 4 – Build Your Brand – the module in which you created your Professional Introduction (Elevator Pitch).

Include your written Professional Introduction (Elevator Pitch) here.

I am a Master of Science in Computer Science student at Northeastern University with a growing foundation in software development, backend engineering, and data-driven problem solving. Before entering tech, I worked in veterinary and wildlife care, where I learned to stay calm under pressure, communicate clearly, and manage complex workflows with precision.

I've developed projects including web scrapers, REST APIs, and full-stack applications using Python, Java, and Spring Boot. I enjoy taking on new challenges, learning modern tools, and building systems that are clear, reliable, and genuinely useful.

I'm seeking opportunities in software engineering or backend development where I can contribute to creating reliable, maintainable, and user-focused applications.

Participate in networking opportunities - Module 5 – Building Your Network. Review the sites for On campus and Off campus Networking events. (Websites included in the module) Check out different Networking events and identify the ones you are interested to attend. Register for the event!

Insert a list of 3-4 Networking events you plan to attend here

Northeastern Silicon Valley – Employer Meet & Greet

Hack the Valley – Student Hackathon Networking Day

TechNova Bay Area – Software Engineering Meetup