

How to get a job (as a CS freshman)

By wilson zhao (SCS '19)

Note: this presentations is a consolidation
of my 3.14 years at CMU.

Take with a grain of salt

<insert anecdote about a GPI TA who
helped me as a freshman>

Pic of doggo



Preparing your resume

Jobs are nice

- \$\$\$
 - Eating out
 - Fuku tea
 - Chipotle with guac



But you're a freshman



Hello
my name is

freshman

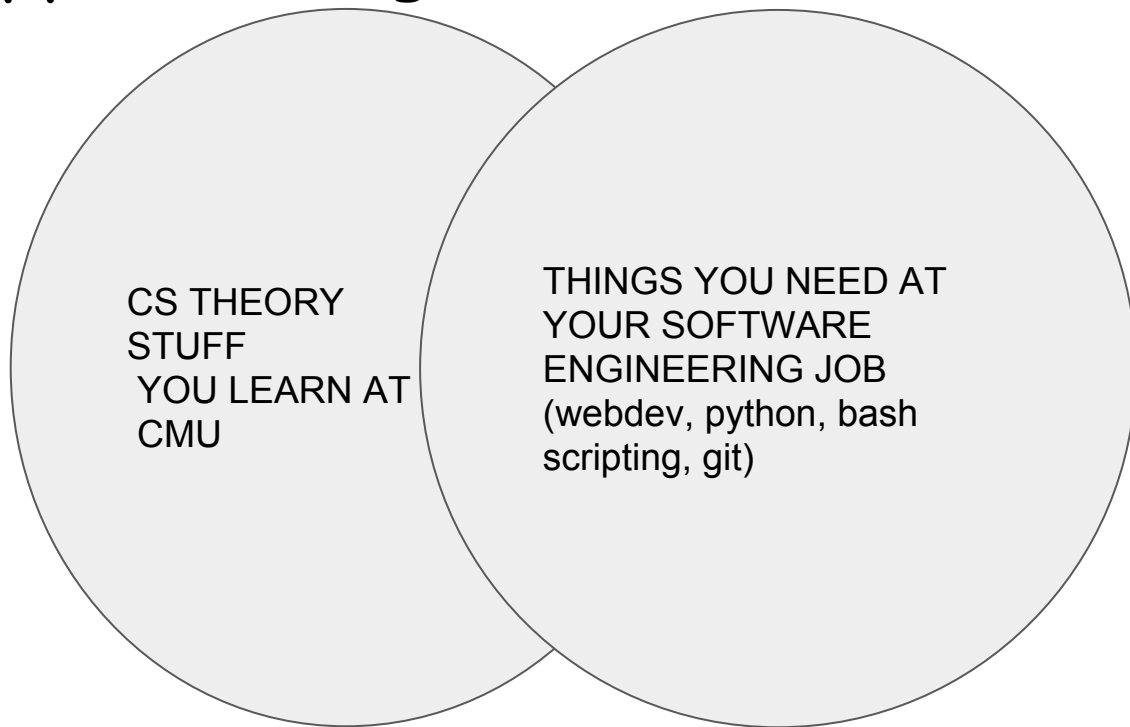
But...you're also from CMU CS

csrankings.org

- There's a reason we're one of the first stops for the technical recruiting season
- We're *not bad*

Rank	Institution	Count	Faculty
1	▶ Carnegie Mellon University •	18.1	152
2	▶ Massachusetts Institute of Technology •	12.1	84
3	▶ Stanford University •	11.3	56
3	▶ University of California - Berkeley •	11.3	84
5	▶ Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign •	9.9	84
6	▶ Cornell University •	8.7	68
7	▶ University of Michigan •	8.6	63
8	▶ University of Washington •	8.4	57
9	▶ Georgia Institute of Technology •	7.0	75
10	▶ University of California - San Diego •	6.9	53
11	▶ University of Maryland - College Park •	6.3	50
12	▶ University of Wisconsin - Madison •	5.9	48
13	▶ Columbia University •	5.8	47
13	▶ ETH Zurich •	5.8	30
13	▶ Tsinghua University •	5.8	102

Crappy Venn diagram



Ways to pad your resume

- Whitespace
- Increasing the font size
- Student orgs
- Projects (open-source/hackathons)
- TA-ing (hint hint become a *GPI TA*)
- Actual experience
- Research

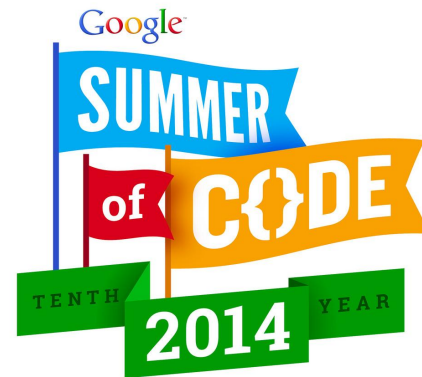
Student Orgs

- Scottylabs
- ACM
- Other orgs and getting **leadership** positions!



Projects

- Open-source is your friend!
 - Google Summer of Code pays you to work on open-source projects
 - Find something small that you're interested
- Pet projects and just screwing around
 - Your own website!
 - Make your own iOS games!
 - Your 112 final project!



Hackathons



- Hackathons!
- Locally: HackCMU/Build18/Hack112/etc
 - HackCMU is beginner friendly! 9/21-22
- Out-of-town: PennApps, YHacks, ..., basically any other college
- 24 hours to turn coffee into code
- Mentors/sponsors/free food
- Lots of fun!
- I'm too old for this now
 - (but y'all should go)



acm@cmu\$ presents

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2018

6:00 pm Friday, Sept. 21 --> 8:00 pm Saturday, Sept. 22
Rashid Auditorium GHC 4001

Are you ready?_

September 21-22

TA-ing

- CMU TA-ing is unique
- Most TA's are undergrads
- Fun/rewarding, get to learn the source material very well
- You also get paid \$\$\$ (11-12/hr)
- You learn a lot of skills
 - GPI: getting infra setup, learning git, publishing to a website, giving lectures, leadership skills, learn from extratations

Actual experience/Research

- Software Engineering
- Professors are nice
- Small class size + Large faculty = Countless research opportunities
- Cold email/Just walk in!

[CS-undergrads] Opportunities - Fall1 2018 (Round Two)

Inbox x



Thomas Cortina <tcortina@andrew.cmu.edu>

to cs-sophs, cs-juniors, cs-seniors, compbio_ugrads, ai-undergrads ▾

Mon, Sep 10, 12:06 AM (7 days ago)



SCS Undergrads,

Some new projects have been posted for you on our [research/projects](#) page:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17LK18JBGR5Z9zp2gEgHjuTCjKTLtOwotUJNzvRyRyww/edit?usp=sharing>

The new projects are highlighted near the top in green.

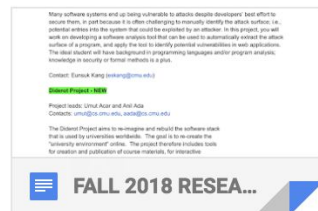
The original projects are still listed in case you want to contact anyone.

Best,
Tom

CS-seniors mailing list

CS-seniors@lists.andrew.cmu.edu

<https://lists.andrew.cmu.edu/mailman/listinfo/cs-seniors>



Resume Review

- USE YOUR RESOURCES
- <https://www.cmu.edu/career/>
 - CPDC
 - Free resume reviews and workshops
- HANDSHAKE
- PIAZZA CAREERS
- Kevin Collins is our guy

[CS-undergrads] From Kevin at the Career Center - Addt'l Resume Review Times

Inbox x



Thomas Cortina <tcortina@andrew.cmu.edu>

Fri, Sep 14, 4:51 PM (3 days ago)



to cs-sophs, cs-juniors, cs-seniors, ai-undergrads, compbio_ugrads ▾

From Kevin at the Career Center—Additional Resume Review Times (Gates 4122)

In order to accommodate more students wishing to have their resume reviewed prior to submission for the SCS resume book (and for students planning on attending TOC who want some job fair tips), I will be in Gates 4122 next week during the following days/times:

Tuesday 9/18: 12-2:30 PM

Wednesday 9/19: 1-3 PM

These drop-in sessions are short (10-15 min) meetings—please schedule an appointment with me on Handshake if you need more time than that.

I will also be in Gates 4122 on Monday afternoon (9/17) for my usual walk-in hours (2-3:45 PM)

NEVER BE TOO AFRAID TO
ASK

Getting an interview

- Career Fairs
- Applying online
- Referrals
- Cold-approaches
- Staying after tech talks

Career Fairs

<https://engineering.cmu.edu/industry-innovation/toc/index.html>

- Career Fairs kind of suck
 - Stuffy, filled with people, shallow
- You should still go as a freshman
 - Learn how places work, worst case
- Your goal: get the recruiter's email and ping them after
 - If they don't accept freshman, save it for next year when you're eligible
- TOC IS NEXT WEEK
- LETS TALK is way better

Career Fair Pro Tips

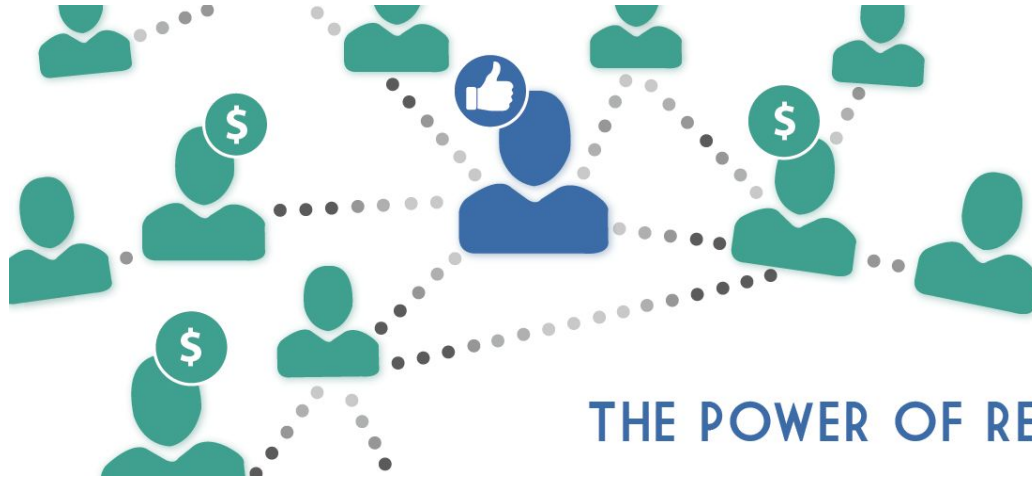
- Practice your elevator pitch
- Scout out companies you want to visit beforehand. Do your research in what products/areas they specialize in so you can ask meaningful questions
- Print that many resumes + 5-10 extra
- Bring a folder/portfolio + a pen so you can take notes/get emails

Freshman specific programs

- FBU
- TwitterU
- Google EP
- Amazon Future Engineers
- Apply apply apply!

Referrals

- How I got my job freshman year
- Got my "foot through the door," still had to ace my technical interviews
- Ask your family, see if they have any friends
- Better yet, if you're in an org/greek life connections will certainly help



THE POWER OF REFERRALS

Cold-emailing startups

- <https://angel.co/>
 - Ask HN: Who is hiring? (August 2018)
 - Startups are a bit more lenient vs big companies
-
- How I got my job sophomore year
 - Hi, my name is ____, majoring in CS at CMU, yada yada yada
 - I've done x,y,z. I love your startup because a,b,c. Do you have any openings for internships?



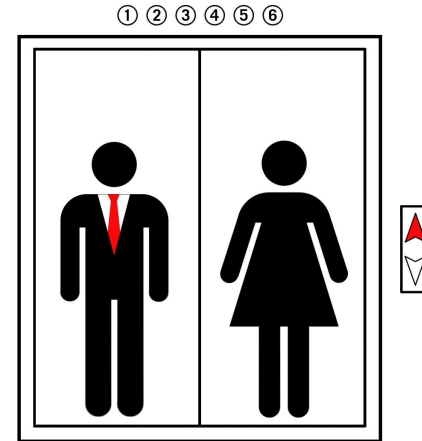
Tech Talks

- Companies love giving tech talks
- There's free food/swag!
- Stay after, and you can vibe with the presenters

<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	SCS/ECE Careers	Inbox	[CS-undergrads] BLOOMBERG Tech Talk: Thurs 13 Sept / 6:30 pm / Rashid - GHC 4401 (Financi...	Sep 12
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	SCS/ECE Careers	Inbox	[CS-undergrads] Reminder - JET PROPULSION LABORATORY - Tues 11 Sept / Tech Talks and In...	Sep 10
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	Handshake	Inbox	You Are Invited to NASA JPL Day @ CMU - events: Tech Talk: Robotic Sample Acquisition & Hand...	Sep 7
<input type="checkbox"/>	☆	SCS/ECE Careers	Inbox	[CS-undergrads] APPLE Technical Presentation: HOPE GILES, Sr. Director, Hardware Technologi...	Sep 5

Elevator Pitch

- 30-60 seconds for you to be be you
- Name. Major. Year. What are you looking for? (Full time/Internship)
- What makes you special? What separates you from the crowd?
 - The interviewer is looking for something that grabs their attention (ex Tell me more about this)
- What experience do you have?



Coding interviews

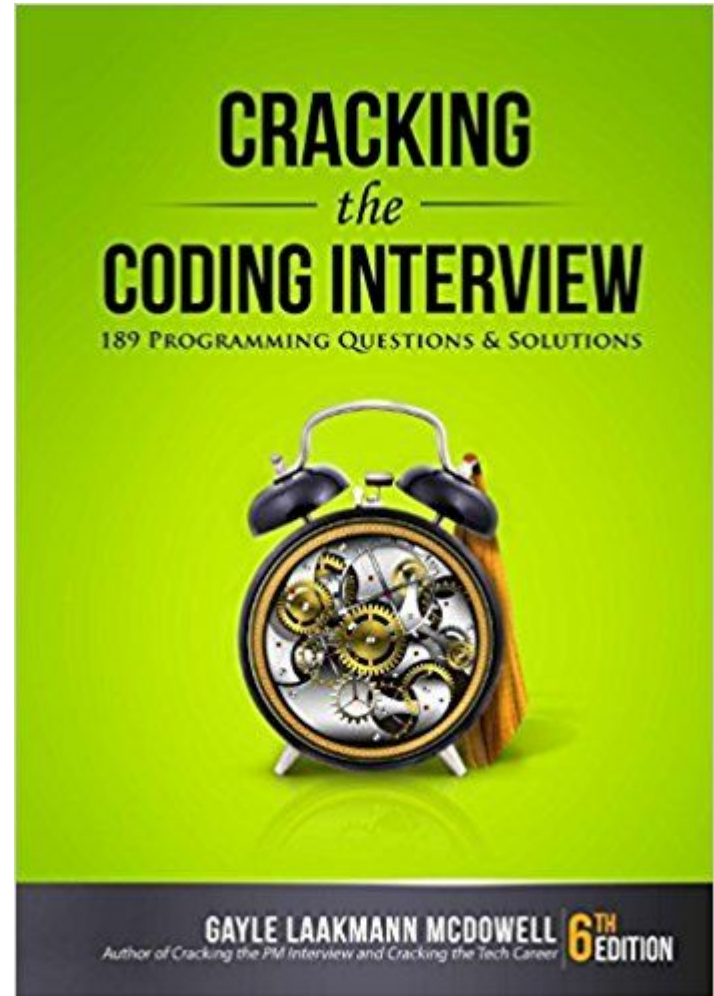
- Clarifying questions always first
- **Your interviewer is not your enemy!**
 - You can ask for hints if you're absolutely stuck
- Think out loud
 - Interviewer is more concerned with your thought process in achieving the answer than correctness of the code
 - More than 10 seconds of silence is **VERY BAD**
 - **Don't stop talking**
- Incremental difficulty
- Utilize constraints
 - I.e. sorted array

Example: Intersection of 2 sorted arrays

- An actual interview question I got a couple days ago
- Tom will bravely interview for this position GPI corp.

How to practice

- Leetcode.com
- Cracking the Coding Interview
- Being a TA
 - This is literally your job
- Rubber ducky method
 - Vocalize, vocalize, vocalize!
- Come to extratation!
 - We're hosting mock technical interviews
 - this weekend



Your homework (entirely optional)

- Brush up your resume
- Schedule an appointment with CPDC/Kevin Collins
- Go to the TOC and LETS TALK
- Make an account on LeetCode/buy a copy of the green book
- **Apply to all the first-year programs**
- Befriend upperclassmen (hint hint use your dinex to buy them snacks)
 - We've been through a lot and are hungry

Appendix