

After college, I'm interested in either becoming a software engineer or a researcher in some subfield of computer science. Because I'm unsure which of these two paths is the one I want to take, any experience I can get in either is valuable to me, especially the day-to-day experience of the job of a software developer that I'd get as a Cybersecurity Extern at CrowdStrike. I'm interested in cybersecurity, so it's possible that my career would be in that area whether it was on the research side or the development side.

That interest in cybersecurity was sparked by the exposure I've had to it already. One of the most memorable and interesting things I've ever done was the small amount of cybersecurity that I did during my time at Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars with NASA in high school. We used encryption and decryption algorithms to protect the data that we needed to send by taking advantage of some properties of large prime numbers. I've always loved discrete math, specifically number theory and probability, so I found it fascinating to apply my expertise in those subjects to the realm of cryptography for cybersecurity purposes.

The subfields of computer science mentioned in the description, especially machine learning and cloud computing, are two others that I have an interest in, so learning about those while at CrowdStrike would be icing on the cake.