

Career Advice

Bootcamper hoping to work for FAANG

A

Anonymous

May 21

I'm a bootcamper with a non-tech background. What can I do work for FAANG right away?

Boot Camp

Facebook

Google

Apple

Questions

1. How should I present my background to increase my chances?

80 words minimum.

2. What is the typical career path of a bootcamper?

80 words minimum.

1 Answer

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FAANG Facebook

May 24

+ Ask

1. How should I present my background to increase my chances?

This depends on what your background was. Non-tech can be pretty vague (for instance do you mean non tech or non STEM). Arts / science / social science etc etc.

There is no one size fits all answer here but I can definitely give you some general guidelines to follow:

1. Craft a good narrative. You should be up selling your journey as a bootcamper and the trials you had to overcome. People like a hero's journey, and you are the hero!
2. Highlight opportunities in your career where you took on significant responsibility and had to use your critical thinking skills. This is often easier for people from STEM background (for instance it isn't hard to convince Software Engineers that if you studied Math you're a good critical thinker). However the same rationale can be used for any career.
3. Don't lie! If you don't have many years (or any) years of coding experience don't try to overly stretch it. People will sniff you out, and you may get flagged.

4. GET A REFERRAL!!! I cannot emphasize this enough. Bootcamper or not recruiters get tons of applications that generally land on a big pile. They tend to reach out to referral candidates first.

2. What is the typical career path of a bootcamper?

There is no typical career path. To be frank: if you aren't a prodigious coding talent / don't come from another strong technical background / aren't a special case (example being a candidate with extenuating circumstances / compelling narrative) your chances of landing a job at a FAANG company are relatively slim. Why is this? Well it isn't because you're stupid, it's just that these companies have their pick of the litter and you're competing against new grads from top universities.

That's not to say bootcampers don't get hired right away by these companies but it's rare.

With all of that being said: your career is what you make it. Bootcampers who have the most success are most often the ones who work the hardest... bar none. I've seen it all: Bootcampers who have started their own company, gone to work at startups, gone to work at FAANG... and bootcampers who fizzle out, don't get jobs, or stagnate. The latter class of people are usually people who give up or lose their drive at some point, and I get it, the path is hard. But if you grind enough / supplement your bootcamp education there is no reason you can't get a job out of bootcamp and move onto more and more opportunities. Ball is in your court 100%.

A Anonymous ★★★★★

Thank you! Time to work hard!

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