**Teisha Yoder**   
CS-499   
Sept 26th, 2025

**Journal Entry**

As I reflect on my progress through the Computer Science program, I recognize that my career plans have remained consistent, yet my understanding and focus have deepened. From the beginning, I was drawn to software development with an emphasis on data management and backend programming. That path continues to feel aligned with my strengths and interests, particularly because I enjoy working with Python, databases, and systems integration. Over time, my perspective has expanded beyond writing code in isolation to appreciating the broader impact of software engineering, including scalability, maintainability, and strong database design as essential for real-world applications.

My career thinking has matured from the simple goal of “becoming a programmer” to envisioning a role where I can contribute to en to end software solutions that are efficient, secure, and user friendly. Research into career trends and roles within software engineering, full stack development, and database administration confirmed that backend specialization, database expertise, and cloud focused skills are in high demand (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025). This research has also encouraged me to consider professional certifications, such as AWS or database administration credentials, as a way to strengthen my marketability (Amazon Web Services, n.d.). While I may pursue a master’s degree in the future, my immediate plan is to build professional experience and continue advancing technical skills that connect directly to industry needs.

Throughout the program, I have met several key outcomes, including applying problem solving techniques, implementing algorithms, developing data structures, and creating functional databas driven applications. I have also grown stronger in documenting and refining software artifacts. Outcomes I am still pursuing involve elevating the clarity of project documentation and ensuring each artifact for my portfolio demonstrates industry quality standards. These remaining goals will serve as a capstone to my program and set a practical foundation for my transition into the workplace.

**Status Checkpoints for All Categories**

| **Checkpoint** | **Software Design and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Artifact Used** | CS-410 Software Design Project | CS-300 Data Structures Project | CS-340 MongoDB CRUD Project |
| **Status of Initial Enhancement** | Completed restructuring and added inline documentation with developer’s perspective | Enhanced efficiency by optimizing algorithms and improving runtime performance | Added authentication and refined CRUD functionality with stronger error checking |
| **Submission Status** | Initial enhancement submitted | Initial enhancement submitted | Initial enhancement submitted |
| **Status of Final Enhancement** | In progress expanding test coverage and refining exception handling | Completed final updated project reflects efficiency and clarity | In progress working on code recovery for deleted file and extending CRUD testing |
| **Uploaded to ePortfolio** | Upload pending after enhancement completion | Uploaded successfully | Pending upload after refinements |
| **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Awaiting feedback and final polish | Finalized and reviewed | Awaiting completion of enhancement round |

**References**

Amazon Web Services. (n.d.). *AWS certification*. Retrieved from <https://aws.amazon.com/certification/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2025). *Software developers: Occupational outlook handbook*. U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/software-developers.htm>