**Instructions**:

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## PART I: Career Interest Review

Complete the following questions:

1. **Describe your primary career interest(s).**

Currently, I would like to work as a Software Engineer at a tech company working with smaller teams in order to either design/engineer product systems or improve on the companies back-end services. Eventually, I hope to lead my own team on some sort of project, working on something that I believe is valuable to consumers and an asset to the company. I hope that this position will allow me the opportunity to not only collaborate with my peers, but also give me the space to be creative in the design process.

1. **How will your coursework and prior work experience help you to be successful in this career field?**

The fact that I am a junior working towards a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science will be extremely crucial for me to be successful in the field. In addition to my degree, my prior experience working in a mentorship with a previous software engineer has given me the knowledge of what working in the field really entails, and also the kind of sub routes one can take when pursuing a career in computer science.

1. **What skills and knowledge will you need to gain or improve in the next year to prepare you for this career, and why?**

I will need some industry experience in the field –which my summer internship should help out with—since it will give me the boost to come into an entry level position as someone who already knows the ins and outs of how a software engineer position typically works on a day-to-day level. Learning new programming languages as well as testing frameworks will also prove necessary since different companies require knowledge of different aspects of coding depending on what the company specializes in.

## PART 2: Company Research

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| **Company Name & Branch or Location** | **What does the company do?**  **(Types of products or services offered)** | ***What job position spurred your desire to know more about this company? Position title(s) and brief description(s).***  ***Are you qualified to apply for it now?*** | ***Describe the culture of the company. (Start with the mission, vision, or purpose statement then what you learned from their website and at least 1 other source.)*** | ***Did the company culture sound interesting or desirable to you? Why?*** ***Does it match with your values? How?*** | ***How many people does the company employ? Is that the size company that you prefer?*** |
| 1 Best Buy – Corporate Office Headquarters in Richfield, MN | Best Buy offers consumer goods related to technology, including but not limited to: mobile devices, appliances, computers, home entertainment systems. The company also provides technology support services in either installation of that technology, or software/hardware repair. | 1- Associate Digital Engineer.  Description: Implementing software features as well as testing said features to inevitably deploy the updated API’s.  I am potentially qualified to apply at this moment.  2- Sr. Digital Engineering Manager.  Description: Leading a team in iteration planning, coding, design reviews, and technical discussions to determine the direction of a project.  This position requires a minimum of 8 years in the industry, meaning that I am extremely unqualified. | Their website states that what the company strives to become is directly tied to their values…  Mission/Core Values:  1- Unleash the Power Of Our People  2- Learn from Challenge and Change  3- Show Respect, Humility and Integrity  4- Have Fun While Being the Best  They state that while their business strategies may change, their values of the company will always stay the same. | The company’s culture strongly matched my values. Their career page heavily mentioned the idea of diversity and being allowed to be yourself, and this sort of inclusivity is definitely appealing to me because I value the ideal of individuality in the workplace. Being given the opportunity to be myself, while also working on projects using my own devices is exactly what I am looking for in a career.  I especially resonate with the value of having fun while being the best because I am the type of person that loves competition and finds enjoyment in striving to constantly be better. | According to their corporate website, the company has approximately 5,000 people working at their headquarters. While this is a relatively large number, it doesn’t put me off since I know that there are many divisions to a corporate office and working as a digital engineer simply means that I would be directly working with a fraction of that number. On top of that, the specific avenue of focus a team works on cuts that number down even more. In the end, I would be working with a s mall subset of employees, which is what I prefer. |
| 2 Google Headquarters (Googleplex building) in Mountain View, California | Google specializes in internet-related services and products, producing software as well as hardware, and online advertising technologies, search engine systems, and cloud storage systems. | 1- Software Engineering Intern  Description: Working with google leaders in developing distributable software systems as well as smaller projects related to Google Ads, YouTube on android, and UI development with Android subsystems  Currently, I believe I am qualified for this position  2- Software Engineer in Machine Learning  Description: Developing systems such as Google Voice Search and Google Image Search to make user inputs more predictive as well as faster and engaging  Because this position requires a minimum of 3 years working on machine learning research, I am not qualified to apply | Google’s mission is to “organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful”.  In detail, the primary elements of their mission is:  1- World’s Information  2- Organization  3- Universal Accessibility  4-Usefulness  Generally speaking, Google intends to make large amounts of information that is both accurate and useful accessible to everyone, including parts of the word that doesn’t typically have access to such information | Upon reading Google’s main mission, I applaud their drive to make knowledge accessible to everyone in the world. I believe that it is important for everyone to know the facts about a topic in order to use that information correctly and to also make informed decisions in their life. In addition to their corporate mission, the company’s culture states that that they are open, innovative, and follow hands-on approaches to their work. While this does sound appealing, there was a sense that most entry-level positions in the company don’t involve much individuality, but instead implore a “worker” mentality. | Google currently has 85,000 full-time employees, where 23,000 are in research and development. This is a really large number and is not surprising in the least bit considering the magnitude of the company and their reach. I prefer smaller to medium sized companies that encourage employees to be individuals, and while working for Google sounds great on paper, the size of the company is a bit off-putting. |
| 3 Thomson Reuters Corporate office in Eagan, MN | Thomson Reuters specializes in information distribution to various business and professionals across diverse industries. These industries include, but are not limited to automotive, technology, government, as well as news and media | 1- Software Engineer Intern  Description: Designing and developing web-based research solutions to customers, gain exposure with performance analysis, and investigating system operation issues by performing root cause analysis  I am currently qualified to apply for this position  2- Site Reliability Engineer  Description: Responsibilities include designing and implementing systems to ensure the global availability of their products and services, evaluating services before and after production releases, and fixing problems that impact those services.  I will first need to get my BS degree in Computer Science to apply, so I am not currently qualified | According to the company’s site, they value interpersonal skill, technical aptitude, and innovative thinking. In general, their goal is to use these values in order to reinvent the way their customers work by “unraveling complex situations” and “advancing their business while gaining a competitive advantage with trusted answers”.  In essence, Reuters values information handling and the distribution of this information in a responsible manner. | As mentioned before, I value the distribution of knowledge to various sources since I believe knowledge is extremely valuable in our world. Because of this, I would say that the company’s values and overall corporate mission align with my mentality and values. | The office in Minnesota employees a little over 6,700 people mostly in corporate business units. While the company overall has 45,000 employees across the world, the specific position I am interested in at the Eagan location works in regards to the amount of people I would be working with. |
| 4 Amazon Offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota | In general, Amazon is world’s largest online retailer as well as a prominent cloud services provider. They not only sell consumer goods made by other companies, but also develop their own devices such as the well-known kindle e-book reader and their Fire TV device | 1- Cloud Application Architect  Description: Architecting and developing customer applications, and working with technical leaders alongside the company’s business and infrastructure teams  I am not currently qualified to apply for this position.  2- Software Development Manager  Description: leading a team of engineers to design and implement new systems, as well as developing tools for scaled networks within the company’s system  I am not currently qualified to apply for this position | According to their website, Amazon’s mission is “to be the world’s most customer-centric company, where customers can discover anything the might want to buy”. They want their company to be the main place where customers go to when they want to find out more about a product, and eventually purchase it from their website. They also state that they welcome diversity within their company, employing workers from a wide variety of backgrounds including culture, education, as well as professional and life experience. | The mission statement in particular really interested me since it gives off a competitive aspect of the company where they want to be the best in the market. Competition is an important driving motivator for me in a workplace and coupled with the fact that they have a diverse team of employees offering various positions based on their background really interests me in a career there. | While there is no information regarding the number of employees working at the Amazon location in Minneapolis, over all the company employees around 566,000 people, holding the number 2 spot as the second largest private employer in the United States. This number is not at all surprising since Amazon is an extremely far reaching company, yet I wouldn’t be surprised if the number of employees working on their backend systems was closer to that of google since most of their employees work in the business and marketing side of Amazon. Because of this, the company still interests me in a career working there. |
| 5 Intel Headquarters in Santa Clara, California | Intel is a semiconductor manufacturing company that supplies processers for various manufacturers such as Apple, Lenovo, HP, and Dell. They also develop motherboard chipsets, graphics chips, embedded processers, and a multitude of other devices related to communications and computing. | 1- OS Software Engineer  Description: Research, analysis, and development of technologies aimed at enhancing Microsoft operating systems, evaluating system anomalies for Intel processers, as well as implementing optimized algorithms for Windows OS Storage/Memory  I am currently unqualified to apply for this position  2- Network Software Engineer  Description: Performing network product design and development, developing new subprograms as well as enhancing existing software, and developing or executing project plans, budgets, and scheduling for work documentation | According to their website, Intel’s mission is “to bring smart, connected devices to every person on earth”. They specifically state that their values include:  1- Quality  2-Risk Taking  3-An inclusive place to work  4- Discipline  5- Customer orientation  6- Results Orientation  They also state that the company invests in every employee and that the work they are doing is something they can be proud of, helping them to grow and make a positive impact on the world. | The ideal of bringing technology to everyone on earth is something that resonate deeply with me, because there are many parts of the world that is in need of technology that can better their lives as well as grow the resources of an area through the distribution of this technology. Not only that, but their statement regarding their investment in the personal growth of their employees is also something that interests me, seeing as how it describes an environment that cares about their people and see them as more than just another worker. | Overall, Intel Hires around 102,700 people in a multitude of locations. While this is a large number, most of it is due to the manufacturing side of the company rather than the system implementations department. In addition, their systems division has many subdivisions where smaller teams of employees work on different aspects of the company, and because of this the large amount of people working overall for the company does not put me off. |