Career Action Plan

Charles Zhang,
Computer Science Class of 2023

Introduction

- Computer Science B.S. (pl. 2023) with a technical breadth in tech management

- Grew up in Manhattan Beach, CA

- Member of ACM, TBP, and UPE

- Front-End Lead at Bruinshack

Personality and Interests

- Strong desire to solve and understand puzzles

- Enjoys using computers, solving problems, and thinking abstractly

- Prefers orderly, systematic work

- Defined by integrity, dedication to duty, and practical logic

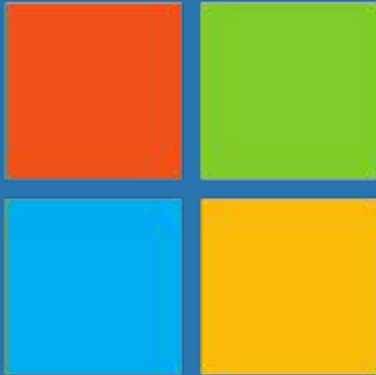- Takes responsibility for their actions and pride in the work they do

Personality and Interests

bitmoji.com

- I don't want to be defined by my job

- I want to challenge myself to constantly evolve and learn more through my work

- I want my work to be used to do good in the world

- I never want to be in a position where I can't find enjoyment in my work

Dream Company: Microsoft

microsoft.com

- Massive tech company with a focus on innovating for the betterment of society

- At the forefront of a multitude of fields in computer science

- Has a lot of fingers in a lot of pies (MS Suite, Windows, Xbox, Azure, etc.)

- Famous among large tech companies for its employee-friendly WLB

Dream Position: SWE

artplus.ae

- Job that allows me to interact with computers to solve problems

- Engages me in puzzle-solving on a large scale

- A versatile position that allows me to work in all sorts of fields, not just limited to tech

- Heavily reliant on logic, organization, and detail

- Requires constant evolution and adaptation to succeed

Dream Job: SWE @ Microsoft

- 5+ years of experience

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or equivalent experience

- Development skills in C++ or C# (or other general-purpose programming language)

- Strong track record of collaboration with team members and partner organizations.

- Ability to propose multiple solutions and make tradeoffs in pursuit of great customer outcomes

Skills Assessment

- C++ (2.5/5)

- Interpersonal Skills (2.5/5)

- Decision-maker (2/5)

- Consumer-minded (3/5)

iconfinder.com

Skills Evaluation

- Continue to gather experience using general-purpose programming languages to develop a product

- Hone interpersonal skills in a working environment

- Gain more confidence by refining my skill-set and keeping up-to-date with the tech ecosystem

Skills Development

Front-End Lead at Bruinshack

- Hands-on experience with industry-relevant technologies

- Opportunity to refine interpersonal skills through a leadership position

- Development of a consumer product allows for practice of a user-centric mindset

Skills Development

LeetCode

- Learning the internals of C++

- Valuable practice for technical interviews

Skills Development

Personal Projects

- Freedom to explore various tech stacks to get a more conceptual understanding of development

- Opportunity to hone in on specific areas of interest within the scope of software

- Posting on GitHub/personal site

Skills Development

Capital One TIP Intern/TDP

- Experience in industry, using relevant technologies

- Team-focused environment

- Similar responsibilities as Microsoft SWE

5-Year Plan

2023
- Continue work as Front-End Lead at BruinShack
- Complete relevant coursework (CS 143/144)
- Begin TIP internship at Capital One

2024
- Complete relevant coursework (CS 130)
- Continue interview practice through LeetCode
- Work on a personal project using relevant tech
- Begin position as a TDP at Capital One

2025
- Continue work at Capital One
- Focus on developing interpersonal skills/confidence
- Gain experience with relevant tech stacks
- Continue interview prep

2026
- Continue to build on both technical/soft skills in Capital One
- Continue intensive interview prep
- Begin applying

2027
- Gain real-time interview experience
- Secure Microsoft position
- Find passion project within the company

References

- 16personalities.com

- bitmoji.com

- microsoft.com

- artplus.ae

- iconfinder.com