

Deliverable (Pathway 2, Understanding my Industry)

1. What were your CLP goals? Did you get closer to reaching them this term? How do you know this?

Our CLP goals include the following areas. They are:

- Improving interview communication using STAR/BAR/SOAR
- Strengthening industry knowledge by researching trends such as DevOps and employer expectations
- Building confidence in professional networking through one informational interview
- Improving the GitHub portfolio and LinkedIn presence
- Becoming more confident in updating the resume and cover letter according to the job posting keywords
- Expanding the professional network through industry events and LinkedIn outreach.

This term, we made clear progress toward all these goals. Practicing structured interview methods and completing the JRC assignments enhanced our clarity and confidence in professional communication. The Research assignment helped us understand industry trends, required technologies, and employer expectations, directly supporting our technical knowledge goals. Completing the informational interview brought us closer to our networking objectives and provided us with real insights into workplace practices. Additionally, reviewing multiple job postings and updating our resumes, cover letters, and portfolio projects demonstrated progress towards improving both our Job Ready Communication and our professional materials. Together, these outcomes demonstrate that we have made significant progress toward achieving the goals we set at the beginning of the term.

2. Which assignments, interactions, readings, class meeting activities, or other resources were most helpful in working towards your goals? List three and describe how each one helped you to meet your goals.

- The informational interview (Interaction – Pathway 2)**

This interaction was extremely helpful because it provided me with real-world insights into production systems, DevOps workflows, communication expectations, and the skills that new graduates need. It directly supported my networking goal and helped me understand how to adjust my resume, interview examples, and career direction in line with actual industry practices.

- The Job Ready Communication (JRC) assignments – resume, cover letter, and interview practice**

These assignments helped me create more professional and targeted job documents. By practicing STAR/BAR/SOAR, I learned to organize my interview answers more clearly and confidently. Revising my resume and cover letter also taught me how to use keywords, highlight relevant skills, and tailor my documents to different job postings.

- The Research assignment (Pathway 2: Understanding My Industry)**

Researching job postings, industry trends, and software development skills helped me understand employer expectations more deeply. It guided me in selecting the right tools to focus on (such as cloud, DevOps, JavaScript frameworks, and databases) and helped me connect industry knowledge to my long-term learning plan. This assignment also strengthened my ability to adapt my JRC to different roles.

3. What did you find difficult about conducting informational interviews?

One of the biggest challenges in conducting the informational interview was initiating the conversation with a professional. We worried about sounding unprofessional or taking too much of the interviewee's time, so crafting a concise, respectful message required careful thought. Managing the flow of the interview was also hard. Despite preparing open-ended questions, we struggled

to keep it within 10–15 minutes while gathering insights. Sometimes responses were detailed, especially on production risks, DevOps, or compliance, requiring us to adjust follow-up questions quickly. A final challenge was balancing technical and communication questions. The interviewee's extensive IT and DevOps experience meant that some topics were advanced beyond the class, making it challenging to understand the technical depth while maintaining professionalism. This shows that effective informational interviewing requires both preparation and adaptability.

4. What insights did you gain from interacting with people from your industry? How will they help you to move forward in your career?

Interacting with an experienced IT professional provided key insights into workplace expectations in software and DevOps. It became clear that professional development differs from school projects, as production environments require strict change management, proper rollback procedures, and compliance, especially in regulated sectors such as healthcare, where PHIA and data protection rules are in effect. This understanding highlighted that employers seek candidates who respect risk, document their decisions, and understand the impact of their work on users and operations. We also learned that new graduates need skills such as reading codebases, working with Git workflows, debugging, APIs, and unit testing, but communication skills are equally important. Explaining technical issues, writing clear updates, and collaborating effectively are vital. These insights emphasize that success is a combination of technical skill and professional communication. This interaction will influence our careers. We plan to update our Job Ready Communication materials to reflect industry expectations, with a focus on safety, secure workflows, and teamwork. It also motivated us to create a structured learning path including DevOps, cloud infrastructure, monitoring, and compliance.

5. What kinds of "on the job" training, community experiences, or volunteer opportunities do you think would further benefit your employability? Why are they important?

To enhance our employability, gaining hands-on experience in DevOps workflows, CI/CD pipelines, and cloud platforms would be valuable. This practical experience would solidify understanding of deployment, maintenance, change management, staging, rollback procedures, and secure development practices, as highlighted in the interview. Joining community events, such as local tech meetups, can expand our professional network and boost our communication confidence, helping us discuss technical topics and stay current on trends like cloud-native technology, observability tools, and AI. Volunteering to build web apps, contributing to open-source projects, or supporting nonprofits would also boost our technical skills, teamwork, initiative, and problem-solving abilities, demonstrating the qualities employers seek.

6. Who would you seek further advice from and how do you think it would support your employability and/or Job Ready Communication?

To improve our employability and Job-Ready Communication, we would seek advice from DevOps engineers and software developers. Talking to DevOps or cloud experts would help us understand CI/CD pipelines, secure deployments, and workflows—skills hard to learn from school projects. Their guidance would improve our interview examples and strengthen keywords and achievements in our resume and cover letter. We would also consult career advisors and industry mentors for feedback on our communication, interview responses, and networking strategies. Their advice would boost our confidence, clarify our responses, and tailor our documents for each job, making our Job-Ready Communication more professional and aligning it with workplace expectations.