The Zuckerberg Project

Top-Tier AI Internships + CEO/CTO Founder Track

Purpose of This Plan

This roadmap is designed to make you competitive for top-tier internships at major technology companies while preparing you to build and lead a technology company as both CEO and CTO. Every item included directly supports those outcomes.

What Top Tech Companies Actually Look For

- Strong programming fundamentals.

- Understanding of data structures and algorithms.

- Real, deployed projects.

- For AI roles: Python and ML tooling (TensorFlow or PyTorch).

SPRING SEMESTER – FOUNDATION

BYU Courses

- CS 111 (In Person) – Core programming and debugging.

- STAT 121 (In Person, GE) – Probability and ML intuition.

- IS 201 (Online) – Systems and automation.

Certificate (Start Week 3)

Google IT Automation with Python (6–8 weeks, ~4 hrs/week).

Required Outputs by End of Spring

- Active GitHub with weekly commits.

- One deployed web application.

- Interview prep started (3–4 days/week).

SUMMER – ACCELERATION

BYU Courses

- MATH 112 – Calculus 1.

- CS 235 – Data Structures & Algorithms.

Certificate

DeepLearning.AI TensorFlow Developer Certificate (8–10 weeks, ~6 hrs/week).

Required Outputs by End of Summer

- 75–120 completed DSA problems.

- Second deployed backend-heavy project.

- Internship resume and referral list.

FALL SEMESTER – AI + CAPSTONE

BYU Courses

- CS 472 – Machine Learning (In Person).

- ENT 402 – Entrepreneurial Capstone.

Certificate (Start Mid-Semester)

DeepLearning.AI Generative AI Specialization (6–8 weeks, ~4 hrs/week).

Required Outputs by End of Fall

- Production AI feature deployed.

- One technical case study written.

- Internship applications submitted (Aug–Oct).

Weekly Time Commitment

- Academics: 18–22 hrs/week.

- AI business building: 15–20 hrs/week.

- Interview prep: 5–7 hrs/week.

- Certificates: 3–5 hrs/week.

- Work for income: 10–15 hrs/week.

Final Advisor Note

This plan prioritizes execution over credentials. If you build consistently and ship real work, you will be competitive for elite internships and prepared to lead as a technical founder.