

**YOUR CAREER STORY**

Take some time to compose answers to these questions. This document will serve as a cheat sheet for you when preparing for a networking event, crafting a resume, putting together a LinkedIn profile, and answering interviewing questions.

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| **THE PROTAGANIST: WHO ARE YOU?** |
| **What kind of problems do you like to solve?** |
| I like to solve problems that affect the quality of people’s everyday lives. I like to solve problems using software that deals with the mental health and/or business sectors. |
| **What are your core values?** |
| I believe that nothing valuable can be accomplished without a strong personal work ethic. I believe in being someone who is reliable and dependable, someone who can work well in a group and individually. I believe in being honest without sacrificing tact. |
| **What are your strengths/weaknesses?** |
| I am a very resilient person. In life, things have never come easily to me but I have learned that is not an excuse to give up on a task when it gets tough. If anything, it’s my ability to work hard that has allowed me to achieve the major goals I have set up for myself. One of my weaknesses is that I have a difficult time knowing where to start on major projects, but I have started to brainstorm the different steps and small goals I want to accomplish along the process and I this has been very beneficial. |
| **TRIUMPHS, TRIALS, & TRIBULATIONS: YOUR PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY** |
| **What did you want to be as a kid? How have your career goals changed over time?** |
| Growing up, I dreamed about being some sort of engineer growing up but I became intimidated along the way. I thought I didn’t fit they “type” and that I simply wasn’t smart enough to pursue this career path. I went into counseling thinking I could safely be successful in that career. I successfully completed my first year of my masters in clinical mental health counseling, but I couldn’t see myself as a future counselor. I remembered how much I enjoyed doing a coding exercise in my information management class in college and I decided to take some courses on Codeacademy. After getting through a couple of courses, I realized how much I would like to become a professional software developer. I thought, if I succeeded in a career field I didn’t enjoy, I wondered what I would be able to accomplish in the field I had always wanted to choose. |
| **List out your professional history, starting with your education. If anything pivotal happened during a certain role, jot it down as well.** |
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| **What have been some high points in your professional/educational career? Low points?** |
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| **TURNING POINT: WHY SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT?** |
| **Why did you decide to pursue a career in software development? Was there a specific moment/catalyst that helped you make up your mind?** |
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| **RESOLUTION: WHERE ARE YOU GOING AFTER CODEUP?** |
| **What do you enjoy about coding so far?** |
| My favorite part about coding so far is how easy it is to see the real world application of the information that I’m learning. I love gaining skills that make me capable of solving solutions to real world problems by simply using a computer. |
| **Where do you see yourself after bootcamp? What’s your “end goal”?** |
| I know finishing Codeup’s Full Stack Development program is only the beginning of my career. After Codeup, I will like to become an expert in other languages such as Python and Java, as well as refine my knowledge of PHP, JavaScript, and in general, the other other major topics we covered in Codeup. My “end goal” would be to find a job in a company that encourages mentorship relationships, encourage constant growth and development, where I can gain a wide breadth of knowledge about many different aspects of the software development industry. |

**Your Career Story**

*Referencing your answers above, use this space to build a comprehensive career story Remember, you should be able to tell this story in five minute or less.*

*If you have time, add a visual representation of your career change story, using images to illustrate major points.*

Being an immigrant from Mexico, I always grew up with the idea that I had to pursue a career where I was contributing to society and to my family. Since my parents sacrificed their financial stability so that my sisters and I could have more educational and vocational opportunities in a new country, that was always in the back of my mind when I was choosing a career. Growing up, I wanted to have a career as an engineer and I wanted to solve complex problems that directly affected people in their daily lives.

However, as I was choosing a major, I became intimidated after taking a few classes I and realizing I may not fit the idea I had of what the “computer science engineer” type was. I became afraid to risk failing as an engineer and disappoint my family, so I choose a career where I thought I could safely succeed in. I decided to study Psychology and Business.

My fear of failure led me to try out two fields simultaneously in case one of those fields didn’t work out. When I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, I decided to work in a business setting so I was hired as a call center consultant in a credit union. I excelled in my job but I felt like I was wasting my potential. This experience led me to pursue a masters in clinical mental health. Again, I excelled in my program and I became very involved in research. However, after finishing my first year of my masters program, I realized there were many ethical gray areas that conflicted with my values. Notwithstanding, I felt like it was too late in my life for a radical career change.

For part of my masters program , I worked for a nonprofit organization called Girlstart. This organization empowered young girls to pursue careers in STEM fields. I was in charge of delivering after-school science lessons to inspire them and foster their scientific curiosity. I remember feeling very passionate for this program because I wanted these young women to not make the mistake that I had made in shying away from engineering specifically because I believed I wasn’t smart enough.

A few months before I completed my first year of my masters program, my husband told me about Codeup and how they offered scholarships for women. This career accelerator helped me realize it was not too late to redeem my past mistakes. I was under the impression that the only way for me to become a software developer was by majoring in computer science in college and I didn’t have the resources to go back to college to finish a second bachelors degree. However, I remember receiving a phone call from one of my sisters that day, who told me about one of her friends who graduated with a bachelors in business but learned to program in different languages and is now a software developer.

Thanks to Codeup, for the first time in a long time, I feel like I’m on the path I’m supposed to be on. For the first time, I feel like I’m reaching past my potential. My favorite part about coding so far is how easy it is to see the real world application of the information that I’m learning. I love gaining skills that make me capable of solving solutions to real world problems through using only a computer.

I know finishing Codeup’s Full Stack Development program is only the beginning of my career. After Codeup, I will like to become an expert in other languages such as Python and Java, as well as refine my knowledge of PHP, JavaScript, and in general, the other other major topics we covered in Codeup. My “end goal” would be to find a job in a company that encourages mentorship relationships, encourage constant growth and development, where I can gain a wide breadth of knowledge about many different aspects of the software development industry.