

Module 4 – Journal

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Looking at my plan for a career has changed quite a bit. Originally, I did not seek a career in Computer Science rather I started with Computer Engineering as a career. Through Computer Engineering I was introduced to coding and Computer Science concepts. I never had experience with Computer Science before this point and I had always been more interested in the hardware aspect of computing. Over the 3 years I spent in Computer Engineering my interest in Computer Science grew more and more. So, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and financial troubles hit I found myself spending free time with coding and Software Engineering working on projects myself. I actually didn't know if I was even going to go back to college due to financial reasons and of family troubles. However, I found SNHU which allowed me to deal with both issues giving me an opportunity to do online classes from home. SNHU online did not offer Computer Engineering. However, over the time I had spent with coding, software, and various projects I became more interested in Computer Science. Ultimately, I decided to follow through with Computer Science and my interest grew exponentially in the field and my career opportunities expanded.

As I have continued my path through Computer Science, I have found myself focusing on various aspects of the field. I have found myself working on web development, software engineering, and mobile development. Of all these I feel they have greatly improved my understanding in this field. What I found is I enjoy the aspects of software development and engineering which have led me to work on projects that involve those more focused topics. Overall, my feeling for this career has pushed me to expand my knowledge of not only software but also hardware. Without my interest in this career, I wouldn't have pushed into home lab projects, server projects, or software development. It was always a part of something I wanted to do but I struggled to justify it practically as I always have something to use it for.

I haven't done any formal research on my career choice however I have been following AI pretty closely. This is primarily due to how it can be useful for software developers and the biggest thing that it has done to impact my feeling of this career is that AI can be scary. AI has no real limitation at the moment and there is a lack of direction without regulation. It made me see how much growth there still is in the field and how much impact I could potentially have on the space of Computer Science. In terms of expanding my degree or getting certifications, I believe it depends on many factors. First in terms of certification the biggest thing is I don't want to waste my time getting useless certifications as there is a demand for Software development. I don't want to miss that wave, and I want to be sure that when I look for a certification it needs to be greatly worth the effort. Likewise, expanding my degree is helpful but many jobs are opening up at this moment that are targeting bachelor graduates and like I mentioned previously I don't want to risk missing that wave of demand. I may at some point finish my Computer Engineering degree as that makes me very useful in computer space as I can do either hardware or software work. Likewise, I may expand my degree in the future once I have found myself a starting point in the field.

In terms of outcomes for the course like last journal I believe I have hit a little bit of everything as part of my category one enhancement but I especially feel strongly about the 4th outcome which is "Demonstrate an ability to use well-founded and innovative techniques, skills, and tools in computing practices for the purpose of implementing computer solutions that deliver value and accomplish industry-specific goals (software engineering/design/database)". I feel like with the completion of the first two enhancements I finally reached and accomplished that goal of the project while also being able to use my skills, tools, and techniques to do.

Not a whole lot has changed since my last journal, category one is mostly complete and is ready for uploading to my ePortfolio. The only part I am waiting for is feedback on category one and finalization of how I want to lay out the ePortfolio. Likewise, category two is in a similar state after the submission this week for category two. I have begun working on the third category by installing software and database tools that I need to expand and test my CS 340 project. Like last week the biggest factor at the moment is the feedback from both this milestone and the previous milestone.

Checkpoint	Software Design and Engineering	Algorithms and Data Structures	Databases
Name of Artifact Used	X	X	X
Status of Initial Enhancement	X	X	In Progress
Submission Status	X	X	In Progress
Status of Final Enhancement	X	X	Not Started
Uploaded to ePortfolio	In Progress	In Progress	Not Started
Status of Finalized ePortfolio	Not Started	Not Started	Not Started