Me and my friends are getting a lot of questions from first year students(and some second year too) about choices of fields, development, competitive programming, open source and lot other things. Most of the questions are not how they should learn, they are more about choices and that is something off the track in our view. So I hope this note will help you decide.

If you are positive about having career in Computer Industry, then Yes you should get started now, if you haven't already. But start with the basics, learn data structures and algorithms, learn programming concepts like OOP, encapsulation, abstraction, inheritance etc. DONT try to learn lots of languages, master at most 2, all other will follow, divide your learning as below as your learning plan(not compulsory)

1. One/Two major development Language - C++, Java, Python etc.

2. Some scripting - Shell Script, PowerShell(if interested)

3. Some database - SQL or any other

4. A bit of web technologies - HTML, CSS, JavaScript

5. Working knowledge of git

If you can check yourself in all four, then go for some framework in your interested field, ideally if you follow strictly, you will be in 3th or 4th sem after this. Until then do some competitive and do some development. Don't force yourself too much, enjoy too, remember, you only live once

Now it is time to master a certain technology, there endless opportunities in technology industry, master one/two framework or development technique, if you have been good in competitive programming you can master that too. Explore open-source find something to contribute, make yourself familiar with the development and innovation going on, again don't force too much, Try different open-source competitions and programs. Make greenery (if you like) . Now it is your 5th or 6th sem probably.

Now you can force yourself to cross the boundaries(be sure not to cross boundaries except of knowledge and skills), Do more than you can.

By this time you will probably know what is your interest and what you wanna do.

And most importantly don't ignore your own branch, no branch is bad and no work is small. There are scintillating opportunities in branches like mechanical, electrical and civil, and all other branches, you just need to explore.