Activity 1.0 Professional Interview

1. Discuss with your instructor who you would like to interview. Obtain instructor approval.
   Software engineering for Computer Engineering
2. Contact the person you will be interviewing and obtain consent to be audio recorded.
   Screenshot of the communication evidence

Professional Background
3. Gather the information below.
   a. Interviewee name: Jasmine Shields
   b. Interviewee's specific degree: Software Engineering
   c. Interviewee's place of employment: Software Engineering student at UC Irvine
   d. Interviewee's email address and/or phone: jas.shields06@gmail.com

Professional Interview
4. Ask the interviewee the questions below and record exact responses below. If you wish to ask additional questions, seek instructor approval. Write verbatim the responses to the questions. May use software available to create the transcript of the conversation. Any long pauses or uhms can be replaced with an ellipsis [...].

Speaker Key Example:
Full Name of the Interviewer [Student]   Nancy Guzman   (NG)
Full Name of the Interviewee [Person Interviewed]   Mrs. Woolls   (CW)

(NG)   What is your current job title?
(CW)   Response

5. Please describe your STEM field.

   a. (MJ)   What is your current job title?

   > (JS) "Software engineering… you could say student at UC Irvine."

b. (MJ) Please describe your job responsibilities.

> Since JS is a student, the transcript mostly describes "responsibilities" as coursework + languages/tools used.
>
> "At UC Irvine… for my major, we have to do Python, we do Java, and we do C++… Right now I'm doing HTML, CSS, and… working with Dart."

c. (Initials) What is your average work schedule?

> Not explicitly asked.

d. (MJ) Starting with high school, please describe your educational background chronologically.

> (JS) "I took… intro design, and then… POE, and then… CIM. I never actually did the senior project."
> (JS) Graduated "in 23."
> (JS) Describes early placement, then "sophomore year… Math Excel… then… AP Calc."
> (JS) "I took AP gov, econ… AP calc… and… AP physics."
> (JS) "At UC Irvine… we have to do Python… Java… C++… Right now I'm doing HTML, CSS… [and] Dart."

e. (Initials) If you had the opportunity to do it over again, related to your career or education, would you do anything differently?

> Not explicitly asked.

f. (MJ) What advice would you offer to someone interested in pursuing a career path similar to yours?

> Advice about AP CS / self-prep:

> (JS) "You could probably look up practice exams… and then like test out of it… if you have to take coding in college, it'll definitely help… in terms of placement.

   g. Select a few questions of your choice to ask.

> (MJ) "What programming languages do you know?"
> (JS) "Python… Java… C++… HTML, CSS… [and] Dart."
>
> (MJ) "Which PLTW/engineering courses did you take in high school?"
> (JS) "Intro design… POE… CIM… [didn't do] the senior project."

6. Include the **Audio File**. Video files are encouraged but not required.
Upload it to YouTube, attach the link. You may use YouTube to help create the interview transcript, but you must proofread the transcript to make sure it was transcribed correctly.

Personal Reflection- Five or more sentences per question.

7. Reflect on your completed interview and answer the following questions. You may also add additional reflections or thoughts.
       e. What surprised you the most about the interview?
What surprised me most was how broad the software engineering path is, even early on in college. JS mentioned that at UC Irvine they've already had to work across multiple languages like Python, Java, and C++, and are also doing web languages like HTML/CSS and even Dart. I expected "software engineering" to mean sticking to one core language for a long time, but it sounds more like constantly adapting to whatever tool fits the job. I was also surprised that she never took AP Lang or Lit, classes I'm currently in--I didn't realize how few AP courses she had taken. That made me realize that even strong students sometimes only see the "best fit" in hindsight, and that course choices can matter more than I thought.
       f. What was the most important piece of information that you learned from the interview?
The most important thing I learned is that preparing for software/computer engineering is about building flexibility, not just "being good at coding." JS's experience shows that college programs expect you to move between different programming languages and styles, which means the real skill is learning how to learn quickly. I also learned that it can be worth using AP exams strategically, because she pointed out that testing out or placing higher can help with college placement and reduce the number of intro classes

you need. Her point about Calc BC helping more with college credit reinforced that picking the harder option can pay off later. Overall, the interview made the pathway feel more tangible: the goal isn't just *get into the major*, it's *set yourself up to handle the pace once you're in.*

   g. How has this interview influenced your feelings about your future career?

This interview made me feel more confident about pursuing computer engineering, but also more aware of what I need to be ready for. Hearing that software engineering students work with multiple languages and frameworks made me realize I should keep practicing outside of class so I'm not relying on only one tool or environment. It also motivated me to treat AP and placement opportunities more seriously, since JS described how placement can make college coursework smoother and more efficient. After the interview, I feel like this career path fits me even more, but I'm taking it as a sign that I should intentionally build both programming breadth and strong fundamentals.