*Three jobs that I want immediately after graduating from ISU.*

* IT Consultant

Information technology consultants advise, plan, design and install information technology systems for their clients.

<http://www.careerbuilder.com/jobseeker/jobs/jobdetails.aspx?sc_cmp1=js_jrp_jobclick&APath=2.21.0.0.0&job_did=JHM1HY6QKG9NNXH9PRW&showNewJDP=yes&IPath=JRKV0Q>

* System analyst

Systems analysts are responsible for the complete life-cycle of a new/modified IT system, from analyzing existing arrangements to implementing systems and providing training.

<http://www.jobs.net/jobs/teksystems/en-us/job/United-States/Systems-Analyst/J3J2N961236XVCJSTD4/>

* Information system manager

Information systems manager is responsible for the secure and effective operation of all computer systems, related applications, hardware and software that is used within a wide range of public and private sector organizations.

<http://jobview.monster.com/Information-Systems-Manager-Job-Christine-TX-US-138134173.aspx>

*Three jobs that I want 5-8 years after graduating from ISU.*

* Chief Executive Officer

CEO is responsible for developing and implementing high-level strategies, making major corporate decisions, managing the overall operations and resources of a company, and acting as the main point of communication between the board of directors and the corporate operations

<http://www.careerbuilder.com/jobseeker/jobs/jobdetails.aspx?sc_cmp1=js_jrp_jobclick&APath=2.21.0.0.0&job_did=JHS46Z6BCR8661J8F2Z&showNewJDP=yes&IPath=JRKV0A>

* Entrepreneur

Entrepreneur is an individual who notices opportunities and decides how to mobilize the resources necessary to produce new and improved goods and services.

* IT researcher

IT researchers plan, design, manage IT research projects and present it to others, either in a written report or oral presentation.

[http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/jobs/fulltime/researcher.aspx#researcher](http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/jobs/fulltime/researcher.aspx%23researcher)

Having a career will be a critical part in my life, as it will determine most of my social and personal life. Today we are living in a competitive society; therefore, in order to be successful in a profession, there are ample qualifications and skills that need to be acquired. Those skills and knowledge can be divided into two main categories: hard skills and soft skills. Moreover, hard skills such as computer programming and machine operation are teachable abilities or skill sets that are easy to quantify. Conversely, soft or interpersonal skills are the skills which are related to the way individuals relate to and interact with other people. Examples of these skills are communication, flexibility, motivation, and time management. These sets of skills are varied from industry to industry and from vocation to vocation.

As a candidate to be an IT professional, I need to learn and master the most vital set of skills known as soft skills. The careers that I am considering to do immediately after my graduation are a system analyst, an IT consultant, or an information system manager. These vocations require a common set of soft skills, such as: analytical skills, good problem solving, time management, interpersonal and communication skills, team working, management, and leadership. In addition to the above mentioned soft skills, I need to gain technical, business, and managerial hard skills.

From my studies, I have already gained analytical skills and problem solving abilities. To further improve those skills, I can do more reading and research relating to IT and business industry. Researching will keep me updated in regards to current issues, opportunities and changes while also preparing myself to face the challenges. Time management, interpersonal and communication skill, team work, management and leadership can be improved by engaging in sports, volunteering and extracurricular activities. Furthermore, I need to improve my oral and writing skills and will take some English Language Institute (ELI) courses. Besides this, I will listen to many speeches, read books and magazines and so forth. Technical and business knowledge play a vital part in my career, and unlike other professions IT and business are rapidly changing subjects. Therefore, to face these challenges I have to actively participate in IT major classes, especially database and programming classes. I can also attend conferences and follow additional tutorials, workshops and events which are related to business and IT. Likewise, I would participate in internships as much as possible because they are helpful in gaining more industrial experience. If I gain above mentioned skills I am sure I can be successful in a career immediately after graduating from ISU.

However, 5-8 years after my graduation I would prefer to be a Chief Executive officer (CEO), entrepreneur, or an IT researcher. When I come to this stage, I will be more mature and will have gained most of the soft skills as well as hard skills. Therefore, it is easy to step into above mentioned career fields. The only requirement to be successful in above stated career streams is experience and it will be gradually gained. I think the most important factor in being a good CEO, entrepreneur or an IT researcher is how to make contacts or work with top management and competitors. This is also a part of a soft skill and I assume this can be learned with experience. Apart from this, I am planning to do a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master of Science in Information Systems, as well as a PhD in Computer Science. These qualifications further broad my career perspective and will give me a extensive image of the industry, not only locally but also internationally as well. This will help me to step out from local industry and step into global industry. These qualifications and skills will aid me to be a successful Chief Executive Officer, entrepreneur, or an IT researcher.