

How do I want to use Computer Science?

Matthew Shan

Computer Science is a very versatile field and technology has become an integral part of our culture due to its wide range of uses. Personally, I view technology as a tool to improve the quality of people's life. One example is the invention of the printing press. The printing press allowed books to be mass produced, while maintaining an affordable price. This invention allowed the common folks to read, which gave everyone a chance to educate themselves. Another relevant example is the self-driving or autonomous car. I recently read an article from [*The Washington Post*](#) that describes a blind man who was given the opportunity to test one of Google self-driving cars. Although the self-driving car is not yet ready for public use, it has demonstrated its future potentials. That being said, how could I personally use my degree in Computer Science for technological advancement? I want to use my future expertise to help others. Currently, I am considering three different potential career choices: Software Development, Cyber Security, or Teaching.

Software Development is one of my top career choices that I am considering, because I find it very exciting. Today, everyone uses software in their daily routines, ranging from the alarm clocks, emails, GPS, the operating systems on smartphones, social media, and so on. All of those technologies are applied into our lives to satisfy our basic needs. Without the help of those technologies, it would be either difficult to achieve our daily tasks. Software even has the ability to enable us to perform what was previously seen as impossible. As a programmer, I find that it is a joy to create something for practical use, not only because it is satisfying, but also because somebody else could use it to make their own lives easier.

Another career choice that I am considering is Cyber Security. This career is very important in the field of Computer Science. Everybody's sensitive personal data is stored in a database, ranging from banking information to social security numbers. It is important that a security expert does his best to insure that this information will not be compromised. Unfortunately, as technology advances, so will illegal methods to exploit it. Security experts must stay up-to-date with secure practices in order to prevent hackers from compromising users' data. If I decide with this career choice, I would feel proud of knowing each step for the job to work towards the protection of millions.

The final potential career choice in my mind is to teach. This will be an option that I could consider after working for a company for a decade or so. With this rich experience in a company, I would like to give it back to the community. I have always admired my instructors in different ways, especially those who teach Computer Science. While those instructors could have picked a different and perhaps more financially stable career, they have chosen to impart their knowledge and experience to others. This is something that I deeply respect, and I look up to the instructors as a role model of our society. If I decide to pursue a similar career, I hope that I could give back to the community for what those instructors have provided me along with some of my own expertise and experiences in the field.

After I graduate from college, I plan to use my degree to itself fullest. Not only do I want to do something I really enjoy, but also I want to be productive in society and be helpful in terms of improving the quality of lives of others. As we see, the past and present have demonstrated how important technology has been in assisting our daily routines. By taking on the career of

either Software Development, or Cyber Security, or Teaching, I believe that I can achieve my own goal of assisting others and that I can be a contributing member of our own society.