

Job Interview Questions Responses

1. Discuss one challenge you overcame during your academic development. What was the challenge, was it technical, nontechnical, or both, and how did you overcome it?

One key challenge I faced during my academic journey was allocating time towards my multiple classes, kids, and personal obligations. Outside these non-technical challenges, I suffered a more serious technical challenge where my MacBook crashed losing all of my work. To manage these shifts, I had to ensure that I adapted quickly as I was now required to operate my tasks in a hybrid Mac and Windows working environment. This required a lot of learning concerning how I was supposed to efficiently switch between the two operating systems without pulling my productivity down. The steps I took to mitigate these problems included dividing the large tasks into smaller manageable components along with putting them in an order of importance based on their deadlines. Moreover, I implemented backup plans for my work to my documents getting erased by systematically saving documents in the cloud making data loss impossible. I learned how to balance my responsibilities and adjust to any unexpected challenges, which allowed me to continue making academic progress.

2. Discuss a situation where you worked with a team. How would you describe yourself as a teammate? Where can you improve your team skills? Be specific.

Currently in my military unit, I am part of a team that built and maintained our server and remote desktop systems. We established secure networks and ensure that every personnel had access to all tools and resources they would need. I was tasked with the management of the configurations on the server, troubleshooting arising issues, and making sure everything ran glitch-free. As a team player, I am proactive and resourceful. I kept my team in the know about any foreseen problems so that we would not be taken by surprise and would be better equipped to tackle them. Also, I made sure to stand in and support whenever necessary. I used my experience in both hardware and software to put forward solutions for technical challenges. However, I am aware that I could be better at managing such projects more effectively. While

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strong in collaboration and the execution of the technical tasks, I was at variance with taking the lead in coordinating the efforts of the team. Later in my career, I want to develop my leadership skills further by taking more responsibility well in advance in any planning and decision-making process, so as to have the team more connected and moving cohesively forward.

3. What type of career in CS do you believe you are most suited for? Why this field and not another? Be specific.

Security analyst is the occupation that I feel I am best suited for. I like the protection of systems and sensitive information, finding the weak points, and providing security to ensure no breach occurs. Security is a critical issue in today's digital world, and I feel excited about making systems safer for users. The backup would be software development. While my main interest is in security, I also like how software development is an art and a challenge to solve some problems. Software development provides the actual means of building tools and applications, and in such a case, it would allow me to contribute to tech solutions while keeping the focus on security.

4. What professional organizations would you like to join? What professional development would you like to be a part of in the next five years? Be specific and don't consider places of employment.

I would like to apply to the Association for Computing Machinery and the IEEE Computer Society. Both societies provide many resources in terms of professional development, networking, and emergent technologies. Over the next five years, I hope to attend conferences, workshops, and seminars put on by them in pursuit of knowledge and technical skills. I would also wish to be a part of the mentorship programs where I can learn from the experienced professional while at the same time helping the younger students to grow in their careers.

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5. What are the ways you can use the skills you have learned in CS to serve your community? Be specific.

I can serve the community with my CS skills by volunteering and helping with software solutions either for local non-profits or educational programs. The things that I can do for serving for instance are building websites or applications to automatically take away the administrative tasks from local organizations and allow them to focus more on their missions. I can also mentor high school students who show an interest in learning coding via running workshops or one-on-one tutoring. In so doing, I'll assist in developing valuable technical skills and also contribute positively to the betterment of the community.