

Personal Development Plan (PDP)

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1. Self-Assessment

As a second-year undergraduate student in Information Technology, I have spent the last two years learning about different aspects of computing and also reflecting on where I stand in terms of both academic and personal development. To better understand my current position, I carried out a self-assessment using a simple SWOT framework and a skills audit.

Strengths:

One of my biggest strengths is my ability in full stack development. I am comfortable with the MERN stack and enjoy building applications that combine both frontend and backend technologies. I am also confident in programming and have solid foundations in Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), mobile app development, and software testing. Beyond technical skills, I rate myself highly in teamwork because I enjoy working with others, brainstorming ideas, and supporting group success. Communication and time management are also areas I perform well in, which makes it easier for me to balance multiple projects.

Weaknesses:

One area I recognize as a weakness is theory subjects. I find it harder to stay motivated when studying purely theoretical material, especially compared to the practical side of coding and development. I also acknowledge that while my leadership skills are developing, I have not had many opportunities to lead large teams. Improving my confidence in this area is important for the future.

Personality Traits:

I would describe myself as an extroverted and goal-oriented person. I enjoy meeting new people, sharing ideas, and being part of communities, which helps in networking and team-based projects. My goal-oriented nature means I stay focused on targets, whether it is finishing an assignment or preparing for a new skill certification.

Opportunities and Threats:

I have many opportunities around me, including access to online learning platforms, upcoming certifications such as AWS and Azure, and the chance to participate in hackathons and other competitions that my university organizes. However, one threat I see is the rapid pace of technological changes. The IT field moves very fast, and if I do not keep updating my skills, I risk falling behind compared to others who might already have stronger networks or industry exposure.

From this reflection, my skills audit shows clear strengths in programming and full stack development, but also gaps in leadership experience, theoretical knowledge, and advanced cloud technologies. These gaps will guide my personal development plan.

2. Goal Setting

Based on my self-assessment, I have created goals using the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound). These goals are split into short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives.

Short-Term Goals (6–12 months):

- Complete all currently started projects and ensure they are uploaded on GitHub with proper documentation by the end of 2025.
- Improve my GPA by dedicating more time to theory-based modules and setting a consistent weekly study schedule.
- Find an internship opportunity before the end of Year 3 to gain early industry experience.

Medium-Term Goals (1–3 years):

- Build a strong portfolio that showcases full stack development projects, mobile applications, and hackathon experiences.
- Obtain AWS Cloud Practitioner and Microsoft Azure Fundamentals certifications before graduation in 2027.
- Develop a stronger professional network by attending career fairs, workshops, and connecting with industry professionals on LinkedIn.

Long-Term Goals (3–5 years):

- Become a skilled full stack developer with cloud expertise, capable of handling both software development and deployment.
- Pursue postgraduate studies to strengthen my academic and professional profile.
- Position myself for international opportunities, with a particular interest in moving abroad for career growth.

3. Action Planning

To achieve these goals, I need a clear and realistic plan of action.

- For completing projects and improving my GPA, I will create a weekly planner that sets aside time for theory subjects, while also dedicating extra hours to finishing projects in smaller milestones.
- To prepare for AWS and Azure certifications, I will enroll in online courses by mid-2026 and dedicate at least 5–6 hours a week to practice labs. My target is to complete AWS Cloud Practitioner by the end of 2026 and Azure Fundamentals by mid-2027.
- For internships, I will update my CV and LinkedIn profile by the start of 2026, apply to at least 10 internships by July 2026, and attend all university-organized career fairs.
- To strengthen my leadership, I will volunteer to take the lead in upcoming group projects and actively participate in organizing at least one hackathon or event at the university.
- I will regularly participate in hackathons and coding competitions, using these events to sharpen my practical problem-solving skills and also grow my portfolio.

This step-by-step plan will ensure that each of my goals is supported by concrete actions and clear timelines.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

To make sure I stay on track, I will monitor my progress through several methods:

- I will maintain a monthly reflection journal where I review progress on my projects, certifications, and soft skills.
- I will create a simple Notion or Excel dashboard where each goal has milestones, deadlines, and status updates.
- After every presentation or group project, I will seek feedback from peers and lecturers to improve my communication and leadership.
- If I notice a delay of more than two months in achieving a goal, I will reassess the timeline and find alternative strategies to move forward. For example, if I struggle with a certification, I will extend the study period or use different learning resources.

5. Personal Insight & Motivation

My motivation for pursuing these goals comes from my deep interest in technology and my desire to solve real-world problems through software. I am particularly passionate about full stack development, as it allows me to create complete solutions, from the user interface to the backend logic.

In the long run, I aim to work abroad because it offers countless opportunities for innovation and career development in the IT sector. This vision motivates me to keep learning, networking, and improving my skills. At the same time, I believe in lifelong learning, which is why I plan to pursue postgraduate studies.

This PDP is not just an assignment but a personal roadmap that will keep me motivated and focused throughout my degree.

6. Presentation & Communication

This PDP is presented in a clear structure with proper headings and sections. The use of bullet points and milestones makes the plan easy to follow. Grammar and spelling have been carefully checked to ensure professionalism. For better clarity, I plan to use a Gantt chart to visually represent timelines for certifications, internships, and portfolio development.

7. Use of Tools & Evidence

To support this PDP, I will maintain an updated CV, showcase my projects on GitHub, and keep my LinkedIn profile professional and aligned with my career goals. I will also use feedback from lecturers, results from past semesters, and participation certificates from hackathons as evidence of my progress.