1. Have you changed your career plans? If so, what prompted this change? If not, why have you remained with your original plan?

I have not completely changed my career plans, but they have evolved. When I first started this program, I was mainly focused on getting a degree and hoped to work somewhere in the tech field. Now that I have gone through more courses and worked on real projects, I have learned so much more than I expected. I have also gained a lot more confidence in my skills, especially in full stack and web development.

1. How has your thinking about your career evolved?

At this point, I still enjoy full stack and web development, but now I am trying to figure out where I can best focus my strengths. I see the landscape is rapidly changing with AI, but with limited knowledge I will need to find some extra learning opportunities so that I can be valuable no matter where I go.

1. Have you completed any research about your choice of career? How has this impacted your thinking? Have you thought about seeking an advanced degree or certification after earning your undergraduate degree?

Des Moines, Iowa is not the tech mecca with boundless tech job opportunities, but I will look at what is available and try to find an entry level position with a company that I feel I can grow with and will be around in the future. At this time, I do not plan to pursue a higher degree after graduation. My decision is based on a recent major life change; my husband was diagnosed with an autoimmune condition in June of 2024 and by October of 2024 he became disabled to the point he could no longer work. That said, I am still committed to growing professionally. I plan to work on gaining cloud certifications and improving my data analysis skills, since those are in demand and could help me qualify for entry-level roles.

**Status Checkpoints for All Categories**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Checkpoint** | **Software Design and Engineering** | **Algorithms and Data Structures** | **Databases** |
| **Name of Artifact Used** | Grazioso Salvare Dashboard | Grazioso Salvare Dashboard | Grazioso Salvare Dashboard |
| **Status of Initial Enhancement** | Complete | Complete | Not Completed |
| **Submission Status** | Complete | Complete | Not Completed |
| **Status of Final Enhancement** | Not Completed | Not Completed | Not Completed |
| **Uploaded to ePortfolio** | Complete | Not Completed | Not Completed |
| **Status of Finalized ePortfolio** | Not Completed | Not Completed | Not Completed |