

## CS 4 YEAR CAREER SUCCESS PLAN

### 1st Year

- Get acclimated to UNC. Familiarize yourself with campus, academic advising and the CS dept.
  - Focus on doing well in class and get to know your CS professors by attending office hours/staying after class.
  - Create a *Careerolina* account (UNC's on-line jobs database) and get to know the system.
  - Meet with your CS Career Counselor to discuss your interests and career goals.
  - Read the *Carolina to Careers* weekly email to stay informed about CS career related events and opportunities.
  - Attend a *CS Resume Lab* to create/update your resume.
  - Attend *Career Bytes* workshops to learn about resume, cover letter, job/internship search, using LinkedIn, etc.
  - View the *CS Career Connections* Calendar and plan to attend as many company sessions as possible. This helps you to learn more about various industries, companies, and technologies all while making important connections with employers.
  - Become involved with campus organizations and departmental events such as HackNC and Maze Day.
- During the Summer:**
- Explore possible careers and build your network by conducting informational interviews or shadowing. Locate interesting professionals using LinkedIn.
  - Gain hands-on experience through part-time work, internship, volunteer or personal projects that use your technical skills.

### Sophomore Year

- Update your *Careerolina* account.
  - Consider attending a CS Resume Lab for help updating your resume; upload it to Careerolina.
  - View the *CS Career Connections* Calendar and plan to attend as many company sessions as possible to learn about various companies and their internship opportunities.
  - Continue attending *Career Bytes* and UCS workshops to learn more about preparing for internship search.
  - Read the *Carolina to Careers* weekly email to stay informed about CS career related events and opportunities.
  - Create and/or update your GitHub account/online portfolio to showcase your code to potential employers.
  - Build your experience by getting involved with CS related and other clubs on campus; Be open to seeking leadership opportunities.
  - Attend the Fall *CSIT Career Fair*, the *UCS Fall and Spring Job/Internship Expos*, the *Fall CS Symposium*, and the *Spring LInCS Networking Night*.
  - Practice technical interviewing with CS classmates or during *CS Mock Interviews*. Use the books *Cracking the Coding Interview* and *Programming Interviews Exposed* to help prepare.
  - Participate in hand-on departmental activities such as Hack NC, Pearl Hacks, Maze Day, and various programming competitions.
  - If you are interested in research, begin talking with professors about your interests.
- During the Summer:**
- Continue to obtain professional experience through p/t jobs, internships, research, personal projects and volunteer opportunities that allow you to practice and stretch your technical skills.
  - Conduct informational interviews with professionals in different fields to learn about career options and expand your network.

### Junior Year

- Update your *Careerolina* account; update/upload new resume; consider attending a *CS Resume Lab* for help.
- If you are interested in research, speak with professors about your interests.
- Discuss job/internship search strategies with a career counselor or attend a job/internship search workshop.
- Continue attending Career Bytes/UCS workshops to learn more about preparing for an internship search.
- Create and/or update your GitHub account/online portfolio to showcase your code to potential employers.
- View the *CS Career Connections* Calendar; plan to attend as many company sessions as possible to learn about various internships.
- Read the *Carolina to Careers* weekly email to stay informed about CS career related events and opportunities.
- Practice technical interviewing with CS classmates or during CS Mock Interviews. Use the books *Cracking the Coding Interview* and *Programming Interviews Exposed* to help prepare.
- Attend the Fall CSIT Career Fair, the UCS Fall and Spring Job/Internship Expos, the Fall CS Symposium, and the Spring LInCS Networking Night.
- Build your experience by continuing to be involved with CS related and/or other clubs on campus. Be open to seeking leadership opportunities.
- Continue to participate in hand-on departmental activities such as Hack NC, Pearl Hacks, and Maze Day.
- Begin thinking about who you will ask to serve as references (usually need three) or to write letters of recommendation.
- If considering graduate school, begin exploring programs, application deadlines, and requirements.

#### During the Summer:

- Complete a career-related internship. Many summer internships often lead to full-time job offers.
- Make connections with professionals in various departments and levels at your place of summer employment, as the people can all be part of your network.
- Make connections with UNC alumni who are working in interesting industries in the city of your internship. Use LinkedIn to help you locate potential connections.

### Senior Year

- Update your *Careerolina* account; update/upload new resume; consider attending a *CS Resume Lab* for help.
- Evaluate summer experience and future plans; Meet with your career counselor if needed.
- Monitor application and on-campus interview deadlines of positions posted in *Careerolina*. Apply to as many positions that interest you, both within and outside Careerolina.
- View the *CS Career Connections* calendar and plan to attend as many company sessions as possible to learn about various career opportunities.
- Read the *Carolina to Careers* weekly email to stay informed about CS career related events and opportunities.
- Continue updating your GitHub account or online portfolio to showcase your code to potential employers.
- Attend the Fall CSIT Career Fair, the UCS Fall and Spring Job/Internship Expos, the Fall CS Symposium, and the Spring LInCS Networking Night.
- Continue to participate in hand-on departmental activities such as Hack NC, Pearl Hacks, and Maze Day.
- Practice technical interviewing with CS classmates. Consider volunteering to help less experienced students.
- Schedule the GRE and other admissions exams if you plan to attend grad school.
- Once you accept a job, fill out the *First Destination Survey*.