Job Interview Guide

A Guide to Notre Dame Computer Science majors (by Notre Dame Computer Science majors)

(specifically Garrett Duffy, Nick Swift, Antonio Minondo)

When/How should you start preparing?

When: College

- Pay attention to where your interests lie in the field of computer science in order to take the classes most relevant to your interests as soon as possible.
- Take time outside of class to grow your skills and experience by working on open source projects or personal side projects.
    - *Doing so will not only buff up your resume, but will also distinguish you from your peers.making you more desirable for hiring companies.*
    - *Bigger tech companies generally tend to expect their highest-qualified candidates to not only be able to do the work, but also have a deep passion for programming, and side projects are a perfect way to demonstrate that*
- Take classes related to the particular computer science function you want to join
- Participate in hackathons, they are a great place to showcase your skills, develop really creative ideas and usually companies are looking for talent
- Learn languages that you believe you will be working in for those positions
- Being able to program well is not the only thing that will lead to success in interviews and jobs. The core CS concepts taught in earlier classes are more important than you would think, so keep careful notes from these courses to be able to reference later.

When: Once you get an Interview

- Research the company you are interviewing with (the CEO's name, projects it is working on, how computer science impacts the direction of the company)
    - *Knowing some basic information about the company and position indicates that you've done the legwork before the interview and have an interest in the company*
- Take note of the job listing's requirements in order to highlight how your skills and experience complement the role you are applying to
- Practice "Cracking the Coding Interview" questions, since a number of companies use similar questions to interview candidates
- Take advantage of the resources Notre Dame's Career Office offers.
    - *The office often holds mock interviews, including technical ones, which are a great way to shake those nervous jitters by getting some actual practice.*

When: During your internship (once you get one)

- Put your heart and soul into your job! Not only will you do better slash more fulfilling work, but your employer will almost certainly notice your commitment and this can lead to a job offer from that company or great references later on in the job search

Job Interview Guide

A Guide to Notre Dame Computer Science majors (by Notre Dame Computer Science majors)

(specifically Garrett Duffy, Nick Swift, Antonio Minondo)

- Take notes on the different projects that you work on
- Remember the roles that you served on those projects
- Remember to note the leadership and group experience that you gain.
  - *A lot of interviewers will ask you questions about your experiences as a leader and/or working in a group. It's a lot easier to write down these examples as they're happening than to try to remember them months later*

Resources to consider

- "Cracking the Coding Interview"
- Talk to older students who have gone through computer science interviews
- Attend Notre Dame Job Fairs (and bring a resume)
- Looking at sample interview questions posted on GlassDoor
- Doing mock interviews with the Career Office
- Emails from the Computer Science department
  - *The Comp Sci department wants you to get an internship/job nearly as much as you do. Look out for emails about companies visiting campus, since those companies are often willing to do on-campus interviews*

Extracurricular activities to consider

- Writing your own software programs
- Hackathons
- Contributing to Open Source Projects
  - *This is a great way to show that you have technical competency AND experience working with other programmers*

Networking and Alumni Relationships

- Bring resumes to career fair/networking events
- Connect with ND alumni and recruiters on Linkedin
- Reach out to alumni who work at companies you want to work at
  - *A resume that you submit through a company's online portal will most likely get lost in the pile of other online resumes. Connecting with an ND alum gives you a better chance of having your resume actually reach a recruiter's desk*

Negotiations and Contracts

- For internships it is hard to negotiate on salary, unfortunately. As a student you have little leverage over the company you're considering joining.
- For full-time jobs, it may be possible to negotiate a higher salary if you have other job offers.
  - Always be respectful during this process, however

Job Interview Guide

A Guide to Notre Dame Computer Science majors (by Notre Dame Computer Science majors)

(specifically Garrett Duffy, Nick Swift, Antonio Minondo)

- Be clear with your desired geographical & functional preferences.
  - *Sharing these preferences may get you a better placement than if you had said nothing. Besides, the worst thing that happens is they send you somewhere that doesn't match your preferences (which they would have done anyway)*