4-YEAR STUDENT CAREER PLAN

B.S.C.S. Computer Science

	KNOW YOURSELF	EXPLORE OPTIONS	ENGAGE & EXPERIENCE	TAKE ACTION & REFLECT
1ST YEAR: BUILD FOUNDATIONS	❍ Visit Garnet Gate & the August Student Org Fair to explore and join clubs or orgs for your major ❍ Check your major map & verify all first year academic grade requirements and understand the computer science curriculum ❍ Examine success/support options, including the Office of Student Advocacy	❍ Explore computer science employers online ❍ Review your personal brand, specific interests & next steps with a CEC CC ❍ Attend the Part-Time Job Fair & STEM Career & Internship Fair in the fall/spring	❍ Identify your career goals and take career & personality assessments to understand your skills, interests, values and strengths ❍ Explore computer science major learning outcomes and full course descriptions to understand your goals for this major & the future	❍ Explore your options to see where computer science alumni are working & what skills they have developed ❍ Get involved to build your eight Career Competencies that employers look for ❍ Meet with CEC CC to develop a customized career plan and resume
2ND YEAR: EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES	❍ Consider new experiences, part-time on-campus jobs, undergraduate research, pathways for mechanical engineers within research, and leadership roles to gain experience ❍ Review computer science overview	❍ Join Mentorship Hub and LinkedIn to connect with USC Alumni ❍ Visit the CEC Career Center in Swearingen and have a CEC CC review your resume ❍ Explore the Trello Board for additional career readiness resources ❍ Explore the CEC Student Experience ❍ Investigate Graduation with Leadership Distinction for senior year	❍ Review computer science research, and read up on CEC news and events to stay current ❍ Consider pursuing an Interdisciplinary Certificate	❍ Start looking for a summer internship or co-op in the fall, or consider a Research Experience for Undergraduates ❍ Explore companies that typically hire USC interns and local computer science companies
3RD YEAR: FIND FOCUS	❍ Assess previous involvement & participate in leadership roles ❍ Join a new major-related club or organization to network and enhance skills ❍ Secure a summer internship to build on skills and enhance professionalism	❍ Secure a summer internship/co-op, micro-internship, job shadowing or faculty research experience ❍ Explore trainings to enhance skills and knowledge for employability ❍ Attend panels, workshops, on-site visits (CEC tabling), job shadowing on-site and informational interviews to gain confidence & grow connections	❍ Reflect on your experiences and skills and update your resume ❍ Review skills to see what areas need more development ❍ Review past career assessments to see what your top work values and skill sets are during year 3 ❍ Keep in touch with professors and past employers for networking and assistance ❍ Consider an optional concentration to specialize in either Artificial Intelligence or Cybersecurity	❍ Start thinking about after graduation plans & desired career path and work with a CEC CC to make a game plan ❍ Use online resources and the Career Center to connect with alumni and employers ❍ Maintain relationships with CEC computer science faculty
4TH YEAR: PREPARE FOR LAUNCH	❍ Reach out to professors, supervisors, and key connections to write recommendation letters or to serve as references ❍ Join professional groups and set job alerts for your search ❍ Utilize any relevant resources to network and reach out to contacts	❍ Research online to know more about the companies and positions you are interested in and explore career paths, job titles and salaries ❍ Investigate graduate school vs. full-time job and confirm your path for applications ❍ Verify graduation requirements and complete Graduation with Leadership Distinction	❍ Review & update your professional documents and online profiles ❍ Review your top skills & experiences from the last four years that are most relevant to a professional career ❍ Participate in the Senior Design Course to gain project experience & enhance to resume	❍ Meet with a CEC CC or PPA to create a plan for your job search or grad school applications ❍ Engage in interview preparation & practice — create a document with your most relevant experiences and apply the STAR method ❍ Complete the graduation survey to share your post-grad plans

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS DATA

Average Annual Salary of USC B.S.C.S. Computer Science Graduates*

$82,614

* *5-10 years after graduation*

Skills Employers Look for *(in no particular order)*

- C++
- C#
- CSS
- HTML
- Java
- Javascript
- Leadership
- Linux
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Programming
- Python
- Software Development
- SQL
- Teamwork

Legend

CC Career Coach
PPA Pre-Professional Advisor

Handshake
Big Interview
Gamecock GradStats

sc.edu/career

Career Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Revised Sept. 2025

DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT TASKS!

❍ Build & update your **Handshake** profile.
❍ Create & update **professional documents** (resume, CV, references, etc.).
❍ **Schedule an appointment** with Career Coaches and/or Pre-Professional & Graduate School Advising staff.

DISCOVER EMPLOYERS HIRING YOUR MAJOR

CAREER CENTER TOOLS

Follow the links provided to explore all of the tools that the Career Center has to offer.

BIG INTERVIEW

Big Interview is the Career Center's online practice interview resource that allows students & alumni to conduct a mock interview on their own time, accessing thousands of questions that are broken out into general, behavioral & technical questions.

CANDID CAREER

Candid Career is the premier provider of thousands of informational video interviews featuring industry professionals. Students & alumni can get the inside scoop on careers, as well as advice that will provide an edge in the job search.

CAREERSHIFT

CareerShift is an online tool that allows students to search, select and store job listings from all job boards and all company job postings. Students & alumni can also find up-to-date contact information for millions of companies.

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS

Explore the possibilities! Search & view USC students' post graduation career paths: where they work, skills they use, & how much they earn.

HANDSHAKE

Handshake is the Career Center's online resource for jobs, internships, events and employer connections. Handshake is also where students can find resources and make appointments with a career coach.

INTERSTRIDE

Interstride is a one-stop-shop that empowers students to thrive internationally.

MENTORSHIP HUB

Mentorship Hub is an online platform that connects the USC community. The platform provides career support, career resources, and an opportunity to mentor or seek mentorship.

Other Campus Resource Links:

- Academic Advising
- Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning
- Leadership and Service Center
- Office of Undergraduate Studies
- Undergraduate Research

The Career Center realizes that every student has a unique journey during their time here at the University of South Carolina. All students move at different paces along different paths. We acknowledge your individual needs and will meet you at whatever stage you are in. This document is meant to serve as a milestones guide to help you plan your future and your goals.