Maximizing your time as a Computer Science student

Edward Smallman, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Career Development
Department of Computer Science
College of Science
OR...

- How to graduate in four years with a degree, relevant classroom and work experience, and a job offer or two or three...
When do you start?  Freshman Year!

**Fall Career Preparation**
- Settle into classes, develop strong study skills, focus on how much you like what you are studying
- Meet employers at the UA Fall Career Fair
- Read CS Update to see what internships exist in CS
- Attend career workshops for Pre CS majors
- Attend career panels and talk with corporate visitors
- Explore CS or other clubs of interest
- Learn what an “Elevator Pitch” is and how to do one
- Make sure you know how to shake hands

**Spring Career Preparation**
- Evaluate how much you like your CSC course
- Evaluate how much do you like your other courses
- Explore career options related to CS
- Meet companies at the Spring UA Career Fair
- Meet companies at Spring Engineering Fair
- Look for summer internships or work
- Read CS Update to explore career options
- Meet company visitors to CS department when they are on-campus and in the department
- Join CS or other club of greatest interest
Sophomore Year

**Fall Career Preparation**
- Attend UA Fall Career Days for internship info
- Attend CS Resumé workshop and develop resumé
- Attend CS Interviewing workshop and learn to interview
- Practice your “elevator pitch”

**Spring Career Preparation**
- Attend UA Spring Career Days for internships
- Spring Engineering Career Fair for internships
- Individual appointment to discuss major choice
- Run for club leadership positions of interest
- Decide if CS is the best major for you

- Register with UA Career Services and use JobLinks to find summer or local internships -
- Read CS Update for internships, employer visits, company presentations, and attend any of interest -
- Attend company presentations and talk with representatives for any company of interest -
- Apply for CS summer or local internships of interest on JobLinks or through CS department -
Junior Year

Fall Career Preparation

Attend UA Fall Career Days for internship info
Individual appointment to update resumé
Individual appointment to improve interviewing skills
Individual appointment to discuss internship questions

- Register with UA Career Services and use JobLinks and CS department to find summer or local internships -
- Read CS Update for internships, employer visits, company presentations, and attend any of interest -
  - Attend company presentations and talk with representatives for any company of interest -
- Apply for CS summer or local internships of interest on JobLinks and through CS department listings -

Spring Career Preparation

Attend UA Spring Career Days for internships
Spring Engineering Career Fair for internships
Senior Year

Fall Career Preparation

Begin full-time job search or graduate school applications in August, or during the previous summer

- Attend UA Fall Career Days for full-time job info
- Individual appointment to update resumé
- Individual appointment to improve interviewing skills
- Individual appointment to discuss job search questions
- Individual appointment to discuss any question about the job search
- Create target list of employers of greatest interest

  - Register with UA Career Services and use JobLink and CS department to find full-time positions -
  - Read CS Update for full-time opportunities, employer visits, company presentations -
  - Attend company presentations in UA Career Services or in CS department for all employers of interest -
  - Talk with representatives for any company of interest -
  - Apply for full-time positions of interest on JobLink or through CS department -

Spring Career Preparation

- Attend UA Spring Career Days for full-time info
- Spring Engineering Career Fair for full-time info

Department of Computer Science
Things to keep in mind…

• Grades **DO** matter
• Classroom experiences **DO** matter...keep track of projects you’ve done
• Make whatever information you can available for review on “the Cloud”, list that on your resumé, and refer to that in interviews
• Classroom experience is great, and work related work experience is better!
• Take on leadership roles in clubs or other organizations of interest to you as soon as you are ready and have the time
• Take on Teaching Assistant or Section Leader responsibilities in Computer Science
Other things to keep in mind

• Your resumé is a professional document that you need, start developing it early and keep it updated throughout your professional career.

• If you don’t know how to interview well, you will have much more difficulty getting a great first position...It is not the most qualified who get the best jobs, it is those who interview best who get the best jobs.

• Though the computer science field is more casual, when interviewing for positions, a professional appearance is still important.
Thoughts?  Questions?