



**CRA-W**

Computing Research Association  
Women

## How Can I Be Successful Post-Bachelor's?

### There are many contributors to overall happiness

- Loving relationships
- Financial comfort / a reasonable standard of living
- Personal freedom
- Meaningful / satisfying work
- Working toward goals
- Good health

The definition of happiness differs from one person to the next and may differ for one person over time.

### How can you set yourself up for career success?

#### Take Courses

**Computing knowledge:** Develop strong computing knowledge and skills.

**Communication:** Develop reading, listening, writing, and speaking abilities.

Being a great communicator will serve you well on any career path.

**General knowledge:** Many computing careers involve working with experts in other fields. Be open to learning about new subjects.

#### Participate in Internships and Projects

*(you won't know what you like until you try it)*

**CS Research:** Especially important if you're thinking of grad school / a research career. Also great because employers like to see that students have worked on open-ended problems!

**Industry Jobs:** Gain experience working on problems that companies care about. Explore different types of work environments, if possible (big company, small company, etc.), to learn what you enjoy most.

**In-class and out-of-class projects:** Grad schools and employers are interested in all your experiences working on big, challenging projects.

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## Expand Your Network and Find Mentors

**Professors:** Get to know *at least* one professor well. It's awesome if that professor specializes in the area of CS that interests you most.

**Employers:** Be a great employee. Whether you decide to stay at a job or not, your boss can be a terrific advocate.

**Develop a network:** Professors, employers, colleagues, classmates, and computing professionals you meet can be valuable resources.

**Obtain advice:** Writing a resume, cover letter, or grad school essay? Preparing for an interview? Search for and be open to advice. Consider your school's career center, as well as CS professors, mentors, and colleagues.

## Collaborate

Computing is an inherently **collaborative** discipline.

Participate in collaborative **group projects**.

Learn how to be part of a **team**.

## Be open...

To **trying new things**: You might discover a passion for something you never knew you loved.

To **learning new things**: Computing is a young and quickly evolving field. That's part of the fun.

To **failing**: If you're doing something challenging and new, failure will happen. Embrace it and learn from it.

**To the idea that developing a great career can take time.**

## For additional information, see our info sheets on:

- Is Graduate School for You?
- Master's or Ph.D.?
- How Do I Successfully Apply to Graduate School?