CRA-WP
Computing Research Association
Widening Participation

How Can I Prepare for Post-Bachelor's Success?

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.

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?