

The first time I discovered that I wanted to study Computer Science was in my digital photography class, sophomore year of high school. On the first day of class we discussed how a digital camera works. I expected a lesson on the hardware and mechanics of the device, but to my surprise instead I learned that the mechanics of a digital camera relied more on software implementation. I immediately recognized the prominence of Computer Science, and over the coming years became determined to be an integral part of the technical industry and implement revolutionizing products as a software engineer. Today, as a third-year Computer Science student I am hoping to acquire a software engineer position at a technical firm after graduation.

I got to experience my goal briefly as a summer intern at Cisco Systems, Inc. after my second year of undergraduate studies. Prior to this experience I had only extensively worked on projects in classes, where I was given comprehensive instructions in how to implement an assignment. At Cisco, I had to rely more on collaboration with my peers, and made integral design and implementation decisions on my own. For my project I built the user interface and software back-end of an iOS application that processed collected data and communicated it to an existing web application. By the end of my internship I not only gained professional work experience, but also experience in working in a team, and confidence in relying on independent work and learning.

Furthermore, my experience with mobile development helped me refine my career goals, as going into application development within the field of Computer Science. For this reason, when I returned to school at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) after my internship, I chose to enroll in specific technical elective classes to help me advance my application development skills. This included project classes that focus on the development of mobile and web applications, integration of apps with web servers, managing databases, and software

security. For example, in one of my classes I built a chat application, similar to AIM, where users were able to remotely chat with one another through a server-client implementation. These classes have allowed me to become a more qualified and efficient programmer as they help me improve my technical skills and algorithms.

As a student in Computer Science I have an appreciation for software engineering. As a woman in Computer Science I feel the need to share my appreciation with other women to help recruit and retain them into the field of software engineering, which consists predominantly of men. Therefore, I joined the board of the Women in Computing (WIC) at UCSD. Here I organize and run a committee that puts on programming competitions for beginner students to encourage them to stay in Computer Science. Especially since the dropout rate for this major is highest in lower division courses. Furthermore, my involvement in WIC, specifically heading a committee, has helped me gain leadership and project management skills.

Growing up in the 21st century, Computer Science has always been an integral part of my life. But for me it was more than just that, it was a curiosity. I was always interested in seeing how things work, which further encouraged my passion for logic and problem solving. A passion I was able to establish into a set of skills and techniques through my project work at UCSD, extracurricular involvements, and work experience. I intend to apply the professional experiences, technical competence, leadership skills, and management proficiency I have gained in my undergraduate years to my future software engineering position.