

BEYOND INTERNSHIPS

DESIGN A SUMMER PLAN

TECH



1

IDENTIFY INDUSTRY FOCUSED SKILLS

- Programming
- Machine Learning
- Cloud Computing
- Data Analytics
- Team-Based Problem Solving
- Project Management

2

COMBINE MULTIPLE EXPERIENCES

- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadow
- Coursework
- Volunteer/Service
- Micro-Internship
- Part-time / Temp Work
- Professional Conferences
- Workshops/Trainings/Competitions
- Create Your Own Internship
- Individual Project: Create Something
- Start a Business
- Research

3

DEMONSTRATE AND ARTICULATE

- Think creatively about how you can develop/demonstrate skills. Be proactive and intentional in all of your experiences.
- Find and cultivate mentors.
- Schedule sessions with your Vandy Career Coach to develop your plan and discuss how to "tell the story" of your summer.

SAMPLE PLAN

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

- **Goal:** Explore the tech industry, gain advice on specific skills to develop and build relationships with professionals.
- **Action:** Set up brief phone conversations with 5 software engineers and 5 product managers and at different sized companies.
- **Result:** Clarity about differences in the companies (e.g., big tech. vs start-ups) and the interview process. More confident going into fall recruitment.

COURSEWORK

- **Goal:** Enroll in a summer course or find free courses/tutorials online.
- **Action:** Explore [Google's Tech Dev Guide](#) and complete a pathway of interest.
- **Result:** Experience with a new programming language.

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE

- **Goal:** Gain applied experience.
- **Action:** Contact nonprofit organizations who might have app, database, or web needs and ask if you could assist.
- **Result:** Experience applying your technical skills in collaboration with an organization.

PART TIME JOB

- **Goal:** Gain applied experience.
- **Action:** Reach out to start-ups and inquire about potential projects you could contribute to.
- **Result:** Contribute to a start-up's product development.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT: CREATE SOMETHING

- **Goal:** Create an app or website around a business or personal interest you have.
- **Action:** Make a plan and timeline to develop an app or website.
- **Result:** A new project to highlight on your resume/speak about during interviews.